

\$5

A-League Round 5 Friday 2nd Nov - Sunday 4th Nov 2012



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PHOTO: RUSSELL GIBBS

FIFA FUTSAL WORLD CUP
THAILAND 2012

Date with Indoor Destiny Arrives

FUTSALROOS TO TAKE ON THE WORLD!

By Adam Mark

The Qantas Futsalroos kick off their FIFA Futsal World Cup campaign today (Friday 2 November) when they face the might of Italy in their opening group D match at the Nimibutr Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. And, with matches to come against Mexico and Argentina, the Qantas Futsalroos will be keen to stun the Futsal world and gain what would be a huge upset against the nation standing third in the FIFA rankings.

The Qantas Futsalroos are no strangers to playing the Italians first up in a major competition having done so back in the pre-FIFA days of the World Championships in 1987. That tournament was held in the Australian capital, Canberra, and the Indoorroos, as they were known at the time, hammered their Italian counterparts 12-0. Running

the show for the Australian team that day was none other than current Head Coach Steven Knight.

"It was a different game back then," Knight recalled. "We did exceptionally well and ended up sixth in the World. We got off to a great start with that big win over Italy and after losing to Uruguay we then beat Hungary to qualify for the second group stage. Argentina were in our group there as well and even though we beat them we lost to Paraguay and Brazil. The Paraguayans won that competition."

This Italian outfit promises to be much sterner competition however. FIFA Futsal World Cup runner's-up in 2004 and UEFA European Champions in 2003 the Italian side have the credentials and the stocks to go a long way in this edition of the tournament as Knight acknowledged.

"We know all about the quality they have in their team and what to expect," Knight said. "They are ranked third in the World for a

reason and have some exceptional players. But we have a plan and a structure that we hope can serve us well. Our defensive effort will be important and we showed the other evening when we held out Iran that if we play to our strengths, minimise the mistakes and work hard for each other then we can surprise a few people.

"Going forward we hope to be able to create chances and, if we do, we will need to make them count. Our conversion rate in the warm-up matches was okay and we have been working on some set moves that should enable us to get plenty of shots away. The key for us is to get as many efforts on target that we can when we break and make their goalkeeper work. If we can do that, and defend as a team, we have a good chance."

Qantas Futsalroos captain Greg Giovenali knows exactly what to expect from the Italians as he spent six seasons playing with and against some of the biggest names

in the Italian game during a stint in the Italian Futsal Serie A.

"I learned a lot and made a lot of friends who are now in the Italian team," Giovenali recalled. "I spent five years with Lazio and a year with Solaria Sport Village. I went over there for a trial and obviously impressed enough to be taken on. I started in the under-18 and progressed to the under-21 and first team."

It's not difficult to see the differences between the two nations as the Qantas Futsalroos look forward to facing the might of such renowned players as Saad Assis, Marcio Forte, Sergio Romano and Gabriel Lima, all experienced Futsal players and full-time within the Italian set-up.

"They are all full time professionals and are training twice a day, whereas we are lucky if we get two sessions a week so obviously there is a big difference between the kinds of preparation that we have had," the Qantas Futsalroos skipper com-

mented. "They are very clinical in what they do and do things at a high speed and don't make many mistakes. We will need to be extra clinical when we get the chances and put them away."

"There's only about half of the squad now who are Brazilian born so it's a different team from the 2008 World Cup. I think the young kids in Italy can now see the legitimate career pathway they can have and they if they stick with it and perform then they can make a living out of the game so a lot more are staying in the game for longer."

The Qantas Futsalroos will play their opening Group D match of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Thailand 2012 against Italy (Friday 2 November (kick-off 5:00pm local, 9:00pm AEDT)) followed by Mexico on Monday 5 November (kick-off 5:00pm local, 9:00pm AEDT) and Argentina in their final group match on Thursday 8 November (kick-off 5:00pm local, 9:00pm AEDT).

This Week's Line Up



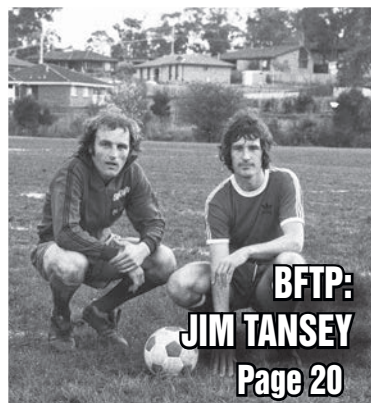
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Penalty Box to Soap Box: Journey of a Non-Ranger

By Adrian Deans

From his earliest days, Lawrie McKinna wanted to play for Glasgow Rangers. Cut him and he bled blue, Ally McCoist and he bled blue, Ally McCoist was Santa Claus and Ibrox the highest of all heavens.

Alas, he never got to play for Rangers, but he did get to play against them.

* * *

To call someone a journeyman might in some quarters be regarded as a bit of an insult. It implies that someone has never quite 'made it' but has been forced to scratch by in the lower levels of a profession.

If you look only at the facts, you could be forgiven for suggesting that Lawrie McKinna is the quintessential journeyman: wanted to play for Rangers, but played for Kilmarnock, Heidelberg and Parramatta Power. Turned to coaching and coached Northern Spirit, Central Coast Mariners, Chengdu Blades and Chongqing in the Chinese Superleague. It's not Barcelona but it's still professional football. Verdict: journeyman.

But what sort of idiot only relies on the facts?

Lawrie McKinna is more than just a journeyman because he makes a contribution that goes far beyond that of ordinary footballers and coaches. In a game famous for its hatreds (even in Australia, FFS!) Lawrie is universally well-liked and respected and would be easily one of the most popular personalities in Australian football.

His eagerness to engage is demonstrated by his habit at Mariners games of always going over to talk to the opposing fans. I am a Mariners fan myself but I have a few mates in the Cove and when they visited Bluetongue a couple of years ago Lawrie came across, recognised me and stopped for a chat. I introduced him to some of my Coveite chums and for the next five minutes or so the game was almost forgotten as Lawrie exchanged banter with about 20 blokes who clearly loved him to bits. If Kevin Muscat or Joel Griffiths tried that stunt they'd be torn to bits.



Lawrie and childhood sweetheart Christine happy on the Central Coast.

But it's not just his friendly demeanour and 'jock-ularity' that endears him to the fans. This is a man who knows a thing or two about football and has achieved something in the game. The Mariners have always been the club with the least resources, in a region with the lowest population and which might also be described as economically depressed. A traditional rugby league heartland, Lawrie turned the Central Coast into a football powerhouse punching way above its weight and achieving one Premiership, two Grand Finals and a trip into Asia during his five seasons in charge. Brisbane, in contrast, had done none of this in its pre-Postecoglou era.

So what is he up to now?

LM: I'm back on the Central Coast as General Manager of Football at the Mariners. They asked me to come back when they knew I was leaving China because, at the time, they thought Arnie was probably going to Sydney. Therefore they thought they might need a familiar face to give a bit of stability at the club, maybe to give support to a new, younger coach.

GW: Going back to your Scottish roots, are you disappointed you never played for

Rangers?

LM: Would you believe no-one's ever asked me that before? My dream, since I was five years old, was to play for Rangers, but playing for Kilmarnock was at least part of the dream coming true. My first ever professional game was for Killie Reserves against Rangers Reserves at Ibrox. A week before I'd been a fan singing in the stand and suddenly Rangers were the enemy! We got flogged and I was just in awe. I never played for Rangers but I reckon I achieved all I could with what I had.

GW: What were your impressions of the Australian game when you first started playing in the old NSL?

LM: My first game in the NSL was for Heidelberg against Preston Macedonia. There were police on horses keeping the fans apart! It was like an Old Firm match and a bit of an eye-opener. The South Melbourne derby was always colourful and exciting...and I scored the odd goal in that. The football itself was very tough and physical. The stadia and surfaces were mostly shite in comparison with the A-League but there were plenty of excellent players like Charlie Egan, Ange Postecoglou, Stevie Blair. My hardest opponent was Dave Macintosh of Melbourne Croatia. You knew you'd come off battered and bruised but you'd

always have a beer and a laugh after.

GW: People sometimes talk about an impasse between Old Soccer and New Football. If you were head of the FFA, what's the one thing you would do to bring them together?

LM: I'd emphasise the history. The A-League's only seven seasons old but we've been playing football in Australia for well over a hundred years. Traditions and roots have to start somewhere but the A-League clubs have to recognise the contribution of the old clubs.

GW: What has been your proudest achievement in coaching?

LM: The obvious answer is winning the Premier's Plate and making two Grand Finals with the Mariners, but really the most satisfying thing was my last game for Northern Spirit. The players hadn't been paid for four months and the club was being wound up, so keeping that team together and getting to the end of the season was a massive achievement on a personal level. We won that last game 3-0 against Adelaide City and Alex Tobin got a standing ovation. Just magic.



Lawrie playing for Kilmarnock in the early 80s

GW: And your most disappointing?

LM: Never to have won a Grand Final. I've been in three...two for the Mariners and one as assistant to Davie Mitchell for Sydney United.

GW: What was it like coaching in the Chinese Superleague?

LM: Good players, good stadia, good crowds. The cultural experience was fantastic. We're just so glad we had that year in China. I'd wanted to do it since going there for pre-season tournaments back in the NSL days.

GW: What was the hardest thing to get used to in China?

LM: There's an old Chinese curse that says: may you be fated to live in interesting times...and my time was certainly interesting. The hardest thing was management interference with decision making. Everything was out of my hands and the Catch 22 for China is they want change...they bring in foreign coaches to effect change...but they won't allow them to actually do their jobs, so nothing changes.

GW: How long before an Australian team wins the Asian Champions League?

LM: It's hard to compete at that level but we're not that far away. Adelaide have shown that we can be competitive but the salary cap puts us at a major disadvantage compared with what the Asian clubs have to spend.

GW: If Australia was to have a 10 year plan to win the World Cup in 2022, what is the single-most important thing we'd have to put in place to make that feasible?

LM: Everything has to be under one banner. From FFA through to state level, AIS, everyone has to be focussed on what is the best thing for the game and not just individuals or clubs.

GW: Besides family, friends and football, what do you miss most about Scotland?

LM: What else is there, besides family, friends and football? I'm just so lucky that I live in Australia. Moving here was the best decision we ever made.

GW: So when Scotland played Australia in a recent friendly, you were going for Australia that day?

LM: Always, deep down, I'm very proud of my heritage and where I come from. That'll always be there so it didn't matter who won that day. I was always going to be happy.

GW: That sounds like a very politically astute answer. You've just been elected Mayor of Gosford. What on earth is Lawrie McKinna doing in politics, and what do you want to achieve?

LM: The last 15 years I've been coaching in Australian football and I've survived the politics of that, so it seemed like a natural next step. [Grins cheekily] Seriously, I've always felt connected to the community of the Central Coast and I just hope to bring a bit of common sense to the council. I want to make a contribution.

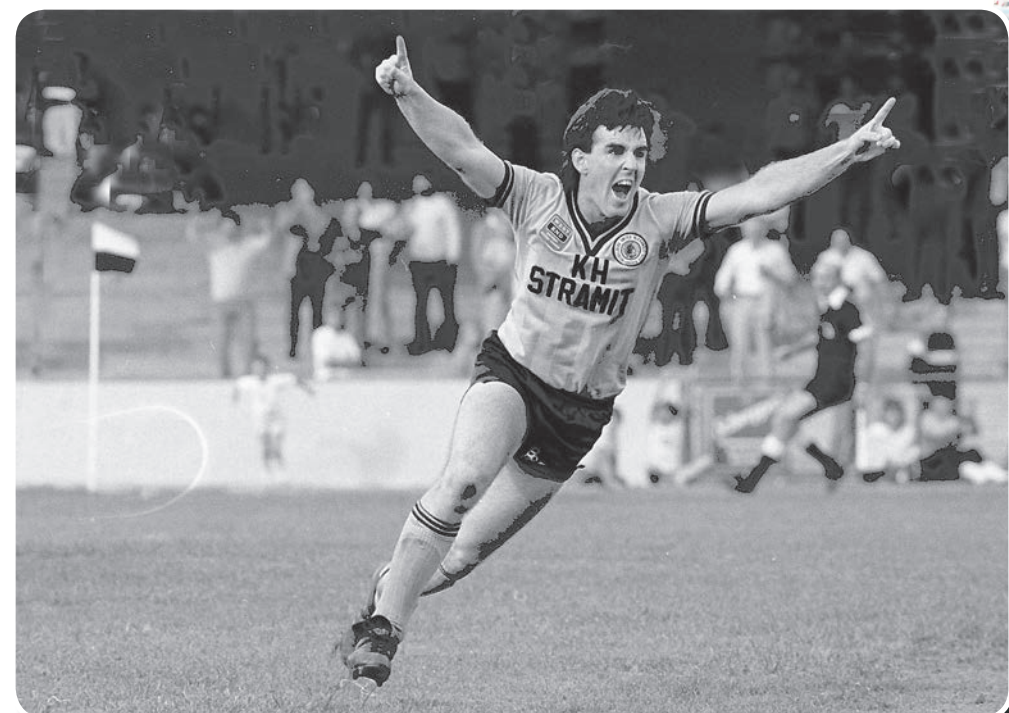
GW: He may have dreamt of playing for Rangers, but little did that five-year-old growing up near Glasgow know that he was destined to be Mayor of Gosford on the other side of the planet.

No-one can argue that Lawrie McKinna makes a contribution. Whether its coaching football, standing for council or getting his chest waxed for charity, Lawrie is always doing something to get involved.

And journeyman? Count the miles, but Lawrie is so much more than that. The Central Coast is lucky to have him but so is Australian football generally.

Rangers don't know what they missed.

It's not pretty but if you want to see Lawrie getting his chest waxed, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBN-IlkMRdA>



Lawrie McKinna celebrates his first goal for Heidelberg United against APIA Leichhardt (12-Apr-1987). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



All dressed up for a good cause at the recent Pink Ribbon Day

New all-time TV audience record for Hyundai A-League

Consolidated viewership data for the Hyundai A-League Round 2 match between Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets at Allianz Stadium has confirmed a new regular season average TV audience record for a single match of 164,367.

The previous record TV audience for a regular season match of 162,471 was recorded in Round 1 of the Hyundai A-League 2011/12 Season between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC.

The consolidated average includes "as live" viewing in the week following the live broadcast.

After four rounds, the average TV audience of 94,969 this season is currently tracking for an all-time season average record. Average attendances are currently sitting at 15,460, a 20 per cent increase on the same point in the 2011/12 season.

This increase in average attendance has moved the Hyundai A-League into 14th position on the average attendances for top professional football competitions around the world*, moving the Hyundai A-League from 24th to 14th in just

12 months. Importantly this also puts the Hyundai A-League third in Asia behind China (Chinese Super League 7th) and Japan (J-League 13th). In comparison, the current Hyundai A-League average of 15,460 is ahead of both the USA's Major League Soccer (MLS) and the Republic of Korea's K-League at the same time in their evolution after eight seasons.

Season 8 also sees the Hyundai A-League on track to see its 10 millionth fan walk through the turnstiles since inception in 2005. Even more records are tumbling with Club memberships already up on last season's total Club memberships seeing a year-on-year improvement of 11% from 2011/12 season.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said the surge in TV audiences and attendances this season was attributable to several key factors .

"There's no doubt the marquee players Alessandro del Piero, Emile Heskey and Shinji Ono have ignited massive interest in the Hyundai A-League," said Buckley. "I congratulate the clubs involved

for making the investment in these star players.

"There's no such thing as overnight success in professional sport, just lots of hard work and strategic planning that sets up success. Much of the credit must go to our 10 member clubs who have built strong membership bases and fan engagement programs over a period of years.

"The arrival of the Western Sydney Wanderers in football's heartland has added so much to the competition. The Sydney derby, after just one edition, has become one of the most anticipated fixtures.

"The role of our key partners in Hyundai, Fox Sports, Qantas and Optus is also critical in supporting the competition and lifting awareness.

"There's no doubt that FFA's 'We Are Football' marketing campaign has really connected the 1.7 million participants at the grassroots to the great things happening in the Hyundai A-League. Stability remains our top priority, but I can see sustained growth ahead for the A-League."

Ranking of Leagues worldwide		
1 Bundesliga (GER)	45,726	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
2 Premier League (ENG)	34,601	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
3 La Liga (ESP)	30,272	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
4 Liga MX (MEX)	25,288	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
5 Serie A (ITA)	23,459	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
6 Eredivisie (NED)	19,516	(as of end of 2011/12 season)
7 Chinese Super League (CHN)	18,928	(as of Aug 2012)
8 Major League Soccer (USA)	18,828	(as of Aug 2012)
9 Coca Cola Championship (ENG)	18,824	as of end of 2011/12 season
10 Ligue 1 (FRA)	18,665	as of end of 2011/12 season
11 Primera A Division (ARG)	18,112	as of end of 2011/12 season
12 2. Bundesliga (GER)	17,242	as of end of 2011/12 season
13 J-League (JPN)	17,022	(as of Aug 2012)
14 Hyundai A-League 2012/13	15,460	as of round 4 2012/13
15 Brasileirao (BRA)	14,693	as of end of 2011/12 season (2008)
16 Super Lig (TUR)	14,058	as of end of 2011/12 season
17 Premier League (SCO)	13,826	as of end of 2011/12 season
18 Premier Liga (RUS)	13,066	as of end of 2011/12 season
19 Axpo Super League (SWI)	12,253	as of end of 2011/12 season
20 Jupiler League (BEL)	11,731	as of end of 2011/12 season
21 K-League (S. KOR)	11,634	(2011 season)
22 Diarum ISL (Indonesia)	11,566	2010-2011 season
23 Liga Zon Sagares (POR)	11,010	as of end of 2011/12 season
24 Hyundai A-League 2011/12	10,496	as of end of 2011/12 season (2010)
25 V-League (VTM)	10,208	(2010-2011 Season)
26 Iranian Premier League (IR)	9,700	

Sermanni resigns to take up position with U.S.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) confirmed that Tom Sermanni has resigned as the Westfield Matildas Head Coach to take up the position as the new Head Coach of the United States Women's National Team. Sermanni will finish his duties with the Westfield Matildas at the end of November 2012 and will start in his new position on 1 January 2013.

The decision to leave the team that he had coached for the past eight years was not an easy one for Sermanni to make, but when the opportunity to coach the number one ranked team in Women's Football came up, it was a challenge that he wanted to accept.

"From a personal perspective, this was definitely not an easy decision to make and, in the end, it became quite an emotional one for me," said Sermanni.

"In football, and in life, it's all about timing, and with Australian Women's football quite settled at the moment with the National Teams and the Westfield W-League, the timing of this challenge to coach the number one Women's football team in the world was at the right time for me to accept.

"There is plenty of great talent coming through the Australian Women's football system and in the coming years I am confident that Australia will be a world force.

"But eight years is a long time for any coach to be in a position and now seems to be a good time to bring in some new ideas and energy into the Westfield Matildas set-up.

"Undoubtedly, I had the best football coaching job in Australia with great support from FFA & the AIS, fantastic, dedicated and professional staff, full support from the club, State & Territory program coaches and a group of players that have been a joy to work with.

"I have many fond memories of my



Tom Sermanni will call it a day with the Matildas. Photo: PAUL LAU

time with the Westfield Matildas and having spent the majority of the past thirty years in Australia, they will not be too far away from my thoughts," concluded Sermanni.

Football Federation Australia CEO, Ben Buckley, paid tribute to Sermanni and although disappointed with his decision to leave the Westfield Matildas wished him all the best for his new position.

"Tom Sermanni is a true gentleman of our sport and will be missed by all who have had the pleasure to have worked with him," said Buckley

"When Tom tendered his resignation our immediate reaction was sadness that he would no longer be coaching the Westfield Matildas, but we understand the motivation behind his decision and wish him all the best for his new challenge ahead with the U.S. Women's National Team

Sermanni second stint as the Westfield Matildas head coach began in 2005 and during his 8-year tenure

he oversaw two successful FIFA Women's World Cup campaigns in 2007 & 2011 where the Westfield Matildas made the quarter-finals stage on both occasions, an AFC Women's Asian Cup Championship in 2010 and helped Australia's Women's World Ranking climb to their highest ever position of 9th (September 2010 & August 2012). Sermanni was also named the AFC Coach of the Year in 2007.

Sermanni is no stranger to US Women's Football having previously coached the San Jose CyberRays and New York Power in the WUSA from 2001-2003. Sermanni will replace Pia Sundhage who coached the U.S. Women's National Team from 2008-2012.

Sermanni's final coaching duties with the Westfield Matildas will be the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup Qualification tournament which will be held in Shenzhen, China PR from 20-24 November 2012.

Tom Sermanni Fact File

Born: 01-Jul-54, Glasgow, Scotland

Coaching career:

1988–1991 Canberra Croatia/Metros (NSW)
1989–1991 Australian Schoolboys
1991–1993 Australian Institute of Sport (Men's)
1993–1994 Sydney Olympic (Australia)
1994–1996 Australian Women's

National Team

1997–1999 SanFrece Hiroshima (Japan)
1999–2001 Canberra Cosmos (Australia)
2001–2002 San Jose CyberRays (USA)
2002–2003 New York Power (USA)
2003 Sarawak (Malaysia)
2005–2012 Australian Women's National Team – Westfield Matildas

National team coaching highlights:

1995 FIFA Women's World Cup – Australia's first appearance

2006 AFC Women's Cup – runners-up (final: D2-2, lost on penalties v China)

2007 FIFA Women's World Cup – reached quarter final (L2-3 v Brazil)

2007 AFC Coach of the Year

2010 AFC Women's Cup – winners (final: D1-1, won on penalties v DPR Korea)

2011 FIFA Women's World Cup - reached quarter final (L1-3 v Sweden)

Playing career:

1971–1973 Cumbernauld United (Scotland)
1973–1978 Albion Rovers (Scotland)
1978–1979 Blackpool (England)
1979–1982 Torquay United (England)
1983 Dunfermline Athletic (Scotland)
1983 Marconi (Australia)
1984–1987 Canberra City (Australia/NSW)
1988–1989 Canberra Croatia (NSW)

FFV ANNOUNCES MARK RENDELL RESIGNS AS CEO

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) President Nick Monteleone has announced the resignation of CEO Mr Mark Rendell.

Mr Rendell, who has been in charge of the State organisation for more than five years, will depart his position before Christmas.

Mr Rendell says he has enjoyed his time at the helm of FFV and while there have been many challenges he believes there have also been many positives for the game of football in Victoria during his tenure.

Commenting on the announcement, Nick Monteleone said that on behalf of the Board and the game's stakeholders, he thanked and acknowledged Mark's contribution to the sport and Federation and wished him every success in his future endeavors.

Nick Monteleone also confirmed the Federation will be seeking to appoint an acting CEO until the recruitment of a new CEO is finalised.

Read Paul Mavroudis' overview of Rendell's reign on Page 18.



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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide United	4	3	0	1	7	3	4	9
2 Newcastle Jets	4	3	0	1	7	6	1	9
3 Central Coast Mariners	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	7
4 Perth Glory	4	2	0	2	4	3	1	6
5 Sydney FC	4	2	0	2	5	6	-1	6
6 Wellington Phoenix	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
7 Brisbane Roar	4	1	1	2	6	3	3	4
8 West Sydney Wanderers	4	1	1	2	1	2	-1	4
9 Melbourne Heart	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
10 Melbourne Victory	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3

THIS WEEK	ROUND 5	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Nov 02	W Sydney Wanderers v Melbourne Heart	Parramatta Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
NEXT WEEK	Sat Nov 03	Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Nov 03	Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
	Sun Nov 04	Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United	Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm
	Mon Nov 05	Melbourne Victory v Wellington Phoenix	Etihad Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
NEXT WEEK	ROUND 6	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
	Fri Nov 09	Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar	AAMI Park	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sat Nov 10	W Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets	Parramatta Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat Nov 10	Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory	Allianz Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun Nov 11	Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
	Sun Nov 11	Adelaide United v Perth Glory	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

ROUND 04 RESULTS

Newcastle Jets 2 (Heskey 54, 56)	Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Bridge 19)
Melbourne Victory 1 (Thompson 71)	Brisbane Roar 0
Bet365 Man Of The Match Emile Heskey	Crowd: 12,663 @Suncorp Stadium
Crowd: 13,912 @Hunter Stadium	Sydney FC 2 (Del Piero 58, Emerton 70)
Adelaide United 3 (Jeronimo 55, 84, Cassio 67)	Perth Glory 1 (Dodd 18)
Wellington Phoenix 1 (Huysegems 42)	Crowd: 22,128
Crowd: 8497 at Hindmarsh Stadium	Melbourne Heart 0
	Central Coast Mariners 1 (Bojic 51)
	Crowd: 6357 @AAMI Park

TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 4 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
 3 - Besart BERISHA (Roar)
 Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
 Stein HUYSEGEMS (Phoenix)
 Jeronimo Neumann (AUGC)
 2 - Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
 Billy MEHMET (Glory)
 Marco ROJAS (Victory)
 Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide U)
 1 - Thomas BROICH (Roar)
 David Williams (Heart)
 Pedj Bojic (Mariners)



Sydney FC superstar Alessandro Pel Piero scores from the spot again to set tongues wagging.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 04

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Mark Birighitti – He may not have had a clean sheet due to Archie Thompson’s terrific header but Birighitti did have a match saving performance with a string of saves in the first half frustrating the Victory and handing Newcastle their third straight win.

RB: Pedj Bojic – Bojic was at his best against the heart and scored a stunning free kick to earn himself a spot in Goal! Weekly’s team of the week.

CB: Michael Beauchamp – The inaugural Western Sydney captain led his side to their first ever victory as they kept their second clean sheet of the season.

CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley – Topor-Stanley joins his captain in the centre of defence as he helped his side do what many haven’t, go away to Brisbane and pick up the three points.

LB: Cassio – Now a neutralized Australian, the Brazilian born defender scored one of the goals of the season with a dazzling run as Adelaide handed Wellington their first loss of the season.

RCM: Ali Abbas – His move from an attacking wide position to a more central position has paid dividends as Abbas has been a standout in sky blue and only looks to be getting more comfortable in the centre of the park.

LCM: Job Wheelhouse – Marcos Flores was almost invisible at the Hunter Stadium and the credit goes to

the Jet’s captain who had a fantastic game keeping the Victory star quite.

CAM: Jeronimo Neumann – Controversial could be one way to describe his performance on the week-end, but his two goals and assist did go a long way to helping Adelaide pick up the three points.

RF: Youssouf Hersi – The Ethiopian born under-21 Netherlands representative showed the A-League a glimpse of his best against Brisbane when he assisted Mark Bridge for the only goal in the Wanderer’s first ever win.

ST: Emile Heskey – Newcastle’s number nine was trending on twitter with #HeskeyTime as he scored a double to go in front of the A-League top goal scorer table.

LF: Mark Bridge – The striker entered himself in the record books by scoring Western Sydney’s first ever A-League goal in a surprise one nil victory away to reigning premiers Brisbane Roar.

Coach: Tony Popovic – The former Socceroo led his Western Sydney Wanderers to their first ever A-League win by shocking Brisbane Roar one nil at Suncorp Stadium. Popovic’s side was well coached defensively as his side kept their second clean sheet of the season along with breaking their goal scoring drought.

Star Man

Emile Heskey
Newcastle Jets



All eyes were on the striker as he scored a bicycle kick and a well taken volley with Heskey Cam showing his every move. Heskey seems to be getting better by the week in the A-League and the goals have started flowing.

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Newcastle Jets

2

Melbourne Victory

1

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 2 (Heskey 54', 57')
Melbourne Victory 1 (Thompson 71')
 At Hunter Stadium
 Crowd: 13,819
 Referee: Alan Milliner

Newcastle Jets: 3. Tiago, 4. Josh Mitchell, 5. Dominik Ritter, 6. Ben Kantarovski, 8. Ruben Zadkovich, 9. Emile Heskey (Michael Bridges 85'), 12. Joshua Brilante, 15. Craig Goodwin (17. James Virgili 79'), 16. Jobe Wheelhouse, 20. Mark Birighitti (Gk), 23. Ryan Griffiths (22. Adam Taggart 90')

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Ben Kennedy (Gk)
 Yellow Cards: Tiago 69'
 Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Victory: 2. Matthew Foschini, 3. Adama Traore, 4. Petar Franjic, 5. Mark Milligan, 8. Jonathan Bru, 9. Marcos Flores, 10. Archie Thompson, 11. Marco Rojas (14. Theo Markellis 74'), 14. Billy Celeski (17. James Jeggo 64'), 23. Adrian Leijer, 39. Nathan Coe (Gk)

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Tando Velaphi (Gk), 6. Leigh Broxham.
 Yellow Cards: Leijer 26', Foschini 61'
 Red Cards: Nil

Heskey at the Double to sink Victory

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets have beaten the Melbourne Victory 2-1 in a thrilling A-League encounter in front of 13,819 fans at Hunter Stadium.

The Jets had their marquee man Emile Heskey to thank as he scored both goals in a man of the match performance in what was easily his best game since coming to the A-League.

His Coach Gary Van Egmond was rightly impressed.

"He was fantastic. I think its four in four now which is a great return," he said.

Van Egmond was also impressed with the effort of his side but feels there is still room for improvement.

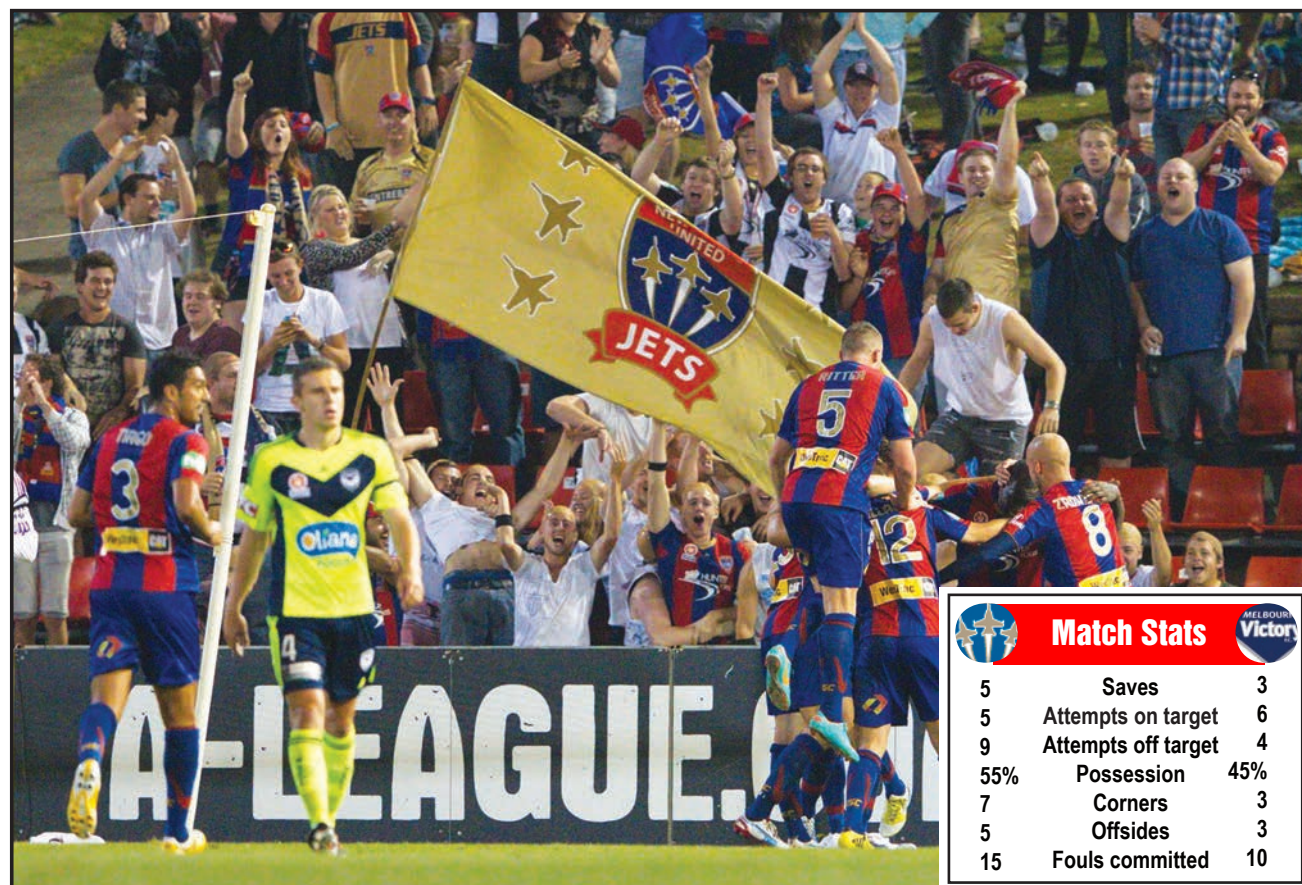
"We can still be better in regards to our performance. Maybe we are still lacking a bit of confidence in playing that way."

Ange Postecoglou was pleased with his side and feels that if they keep playing how they did tonight, the rewards will come.

"We are trying to build something at this club that will give us some sustained success. Over time, if we keep doing the right things we will get the rewards," he said.

Heskey scored the first of his goals in the 54th minute. Ryan Griffiths slipped a wide ball to Josh Brilante who had bombed on from fullback. He whipped the ball to Heskey who smashed a first time volley past Victory keeper Nathan Coe from the edge of the six yard box.

His second came three minutes later. A corner was whipped in by Jobe Wheelhouse and was met by Dominik Ritter. His header went straight toward Heskey who volleyed it acrobatically past the despairing Coe. It was quite simply a sensational strike.



Flying High II: Newcastle Jets fans and players alike celebrate Emile Heskey's super finish. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Archie Thompson got one back for the Victory in bizarre circumstances on 71 minutes. A hacked Tiago clearance flew across his own area to Thompson at the back post. He nodded a well-placed header beyond Jets keeper Mark Birighitti from the corner of the six yard box.

Earlier, the Victory almost took the lead in the 2nd minute. The Jets were sloppy playing out from defence allowing Kiwi winger Marco Rojas to be slipped in but he skewed his shot just wide of Birighitti's right hand post in a let

off for the home side.

The game went into a holding pattern midway through the half with both teams having their share of possession without really creating anything of note. The game was crying out for a goal.

It almost came on 26 minutes. An innocuous through ball was going comfortably into new Victory goalkeeper Nathan Coe's gloves. Adrian Leijer thought otherwise and body checked Newcastle's Ben Kantarovski, receiving a yellow card in the process. Ruben Zadkovich whizzed

in a devilish free kick which went narrowly wide.

The Victory started to come on strong only to be thwarted by fine keeping from Birighitti in the 37th minute. First it was Archie Thompson who had a shot well saved by the keeper's feet after he was set up by Marco Rojas. Moments later Thompson returned the favour, only for Rojas to volley agonisingly wide from the edge of the 6 yard box.

Two minutes later, Victory left back Adama Traore was denied what would have been a con-

tender for goal of the season by the Newcastle gloveman. Traore unleashed a missile of a drive from 30 yards that was swerving into the top corner. Birighitti flew full stretch and finger tipped the drive over the bar. It was quite simply a magnificent save.

The Jets now prepare to travel across the country to take on the Perth Glory at NIB Stadium next Saturday. The Victory will be back at home in front of their fans next Sunday at Etihad Stadium against the Wellington Phoenix.

Match Stats		
5	Saves	3
5	Attempts on target	6
9	Attempts off target	4
55%	Possession	45%
7	Corners	3
5	Offsides	3
15	Fouls committed	10



Emile Heskey shows how dangerous he can be in front of goal with a clinical finish. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Josh Mitchell (Jets) and Theo Markellis (Victory) go toe-to-toe for possession. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



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Brisbane Roar



0

West Sydney



1

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Mark Bridge 18')
Saturday, 27 October 2012
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Lucien Lavendure
Crowd: 12,663

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 4. Matt Jurman, 6. Erik Paartalu (18. Luke Brattan 84'), 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Muroccca (10. Henrique 58'), 11. Ben Halloran, 17. Mitch Nichols, 19. Jack Hingert, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 13. Yuji Takahashi, 20. Matt Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

Western Sydney Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic (Gk), 3. Adam D'apuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Michael Beauchamp (C), 6. Jerome Polenz, 8. Mateo Poljak, 10. Aaron Mooy, 13. Joseph Gibbs, 17. Youssouf Hersi (14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi 76'), 19. Mark Bridge (11. Tarek Elrich 82'), 21. Shinji Ono (23. Jason Trifiro 70')

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Jerrard Tyson
Yellow Cards: Mark Bridge 37', Aaron Mooy 45', Michael Beauchamp 90'
Red Cards: Nil

Wanderers Rock Roar With Wonder Result

By Jarrod Ellis

West Sydney Wanderers stunned Brisbane Roar on Saturday night, running out deserved 1-0 winners courtesy of a first-half Mark Bridge header. It was the first ever win for the expansion club and it arrived in grand fashion against the reigning A-League Champions, whom looked anything but on this occasion.

Displaying a determination and desire that Brisbane was unable to match, Wanderers rarely looked troubled as they became the first team to leave Suncorp Stadium with three points since Newcastle Jets also won 1-0 back in January on a wet Saturday night.

From the outset West Sydney showed they'd come to get a result, Aaron Mooy hitting both posts with a long range shot in only the fourth minute.

Brisbane's first effort on goal didn't arrive until the 12th minute, Erik Paartalu hitting a strong shot at Ante Covic but the Wanderers' keeper was more than up to the task.

West Sydney had another glimpse of their first goal, this time Joey Gibbs' having a shot blocked by Jack Hingert after a short pass from Shinji Ono found Gibbs in the area.

Brisbane were being outplayed across the park and when the Wanderers scored in the 18th minute it was no real surprise. Brisbane were caught napping on a corner, Hersi taking a short corner from Shinji Ono before delivering an excellent ball into the area that was met by the head of Mark Bridge.

Brisbane appeared to wake from their lethargy momentarily, a misplaced pass from Wanderers lead to a quick break, Mitch Nichols playing through Ben Halloran on the right but the winger wasn't able to find a way past Covic.

The well structured defence of



Wanderers are left to wonder no more after finally making their mark in the A-League. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

West Sydney seemed perfectly setup to trouble Brisbane, nullifying the Roar's usual smooth passing game and not allowing them to get set into a rhythm.

Wanderers should have had a second in the 29th minute, an excellent cross from Bridge on the left only centimetres away from the head of Hersi.

Nichols almost equalised for Brisbane as half-time neared, hitting the post after a mistake from Topor-Stanley in the Wanderers penalty area allowed for the Roar midfielder to find the time and space for a shot.

As the half-time whistle sounded it was Brisbane in need of the break as they were undoubtedly outplayed by the visitors and could have little complaint about being behind.

Brisbane showed more life in the opening stages of the second half, but their was a lack of movement in their play and with West Sydney defending with such distinction there appeared little chance of the home side finding an equaliser.

West Sydney almost extended their lead in the 61st minute, Hersi narrowly missing a shot aimed at Michael Theo's near post after a quick counter attack sparked by Shinji Ono.

With only twenty minutes remaining there was still little indication of a Brisbane revival, Wanderers defending compactly and forcing the Roar into uncharacteristic mis-

takes. Even the introduction of Henrique, the Brazilian making his first appearance of the season for Brisbane, was unable to turn the tide.

Aaron Mooy forced another save from Theo in the 84th minute, a left footed volley from the edge of the area forcing the keeper to save low to his left.

Brisbane controlled the dying moments of the match, but despite having a history of late comebacks there was not enough creativity on display to break down an organised Wanderers outfit.

After the match Tony Popovic was understandably pleased with his teams performance.

"It would have been an injustice had we come away tonight without those three points, which can happen in football," he said.

"We didn't get down on ourselves

when we didn't get a win or a goal in our first three games and we certainly won't get ahead of ourselves after this.

"It's three points, three great points."

In contrast Rado Vidosic was subdued after the shock defeat.

"They were very hard to penetrate, their defence was excellent," he said.

"They looked better on the fast break and could have punished us with more goals."

"I don't know if it was a little bit of fatigue, or complacency. I don't know at this point in time," he said. "I need to look at the video and talk to players and find out why."

"They looked really good leading into the game (at training) on Friday and on Thursday, but today unfortunately that first 30 minutes, we were not in the game."



Wanderers captain Michael Beauchamp (5) leads a stealthy defense, this time against Besart Berisha (Roar). Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Mark Bridge (out of picture) makes history by scoring the Wanderers' first ever goal and simultaneously surprises the Roar. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



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Sydney FC
2

Perth Glory
1


Match Details

Sydney FC 2
(Del Piero 58' (pen), Emerton 70')
Perth Glory 1 (Dodd 18')
ANZ Stadium
Referee: Peter Green
Crowd: 22,128.

Sydney FC: 1. Ivan Necevski, 2. Seb Ryall, 7. Brett Emerton (c), 9. Paul Reid, 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 14. Mitch Mallia (21. Yairo Yau), 18. Trent McClenahan, 19. Kruno Lovrek, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyan Grant, 25. Daniel Petkovski.

Subs not used: 15. Terry McFlynn (c), 17. Terry Antonis, 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk).
Yellow cards: 7. Brett Emerton, 22. Ali Abbas

Perth Glory: 1. Daniel Vukovic, 4. Billy Mehmet, 5. Steve Pantelidis, 7. Jacob Burns ©, 8. Dean Heffernan (17. Chris Harold), 10. Liam Miller, 13. Travis Dodd (6. Nick Ward), 14. Steve McGarry (3. Seb Van Den Brink), 19. Joshua Risdon, 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Michael Thwaite.

Sub not used: 39. Devon Spence.
Yellow cards: 4. Billy Mehmet, 7. Jacob Burns

By David Mason

Sydney FC produced a second half fightback to record their second successive victory and win the first ever A-League encounter at ANZ Stadium, claiming a 2-1 win over Perth Glory.

The Sky Blues went behind to a first half Travis Dodd strike but goals from marquee men Alessandro Del Piero and Brett Emerton won the points and lifted Sydney to fourth place in the A-League standings.

Ian Crook made just one change to the side which beat Western Sydney 1-0 a week earlier, with defender Daniel Petkovski making his full debut in place of the injured Fabio.

Perth had the first chance when former Sky Blue Scott Jamieson crossed to Travis Dodd, but the former Adelaide man could only side foot his shot at Necevski on six minutes.

Sydney's first effort came four minutes later when Del Piero received the ball on the edge of the box but shot straight at Vukovic.

Perth took the lead after 18 minutes. Travis Dodd won the ball on the half way line and drove at the Sydney defence. The striker ran unchallenged to side foot past Necevski from just inside the box.

Sydney were almost level three minutes later with a well worked move played out of defence. Emerton passed to Reid who beat two men to touch the ball to Del Piero. With the Glory defence in retreat, the Italian ran deep into their half and slid the ball back to Reid who had continued his run, but the midfielder's shot from 12 yards was saved by the feet of Vukovic.

From the resulting corner the Sky Blues should have been level again. Del Piero's inswinger was flicked on by Lovrek to Mallia at the back post but he headed wide



Match Stats		
4	Saves	5
8	Attempts on target	5
6	Attempts off target	6
43%	Possession	57%
6	Corners	8
3	Offsides	1
23	Fouls committed	9

Blue Heaven: Brett Emerton's delicious chip keeps Sydney FC in early season title mood. Photo: GREG SEATON

from three yards, giving Perth a 1-0 lead at the break.

The visitors looked to increase their lead early in the second half with Travis Dodd forcing Necevski into a good save, tipping over from 18 yards.

Sydney were level just before the hour mark. A brilliant defence-splitting pass from Iraqi International Ali Abbas put Emerton in the clear and as the Soccerroo midfielder turned to shoot he was tugged from behind by Pantelidis. Referee Peter Green had no hesitation in pointing to the

spot and send the Perth centre half for an early bath. The decision was the turning point and it was left to World Cup winner Alessandro Del Piero to roll the ball home with the aid of the right hand post.

With Perth down to ten men Sydney went looking for the win and came close to taking the lead with 20 minutes remaining. Panama international Yairo Yau raced clear of the right back and into the box. With Emerton and Del Piero close by, the substitute chose to shoot and his goal-

bound effort was well saved by Vukovic.

But Sydney weren't to be denied. In search of a quick counter attack, the goalkeeper bowled the ball out to Miller who was tackled by Grant. The ball fell to Emerton and with the Glory defence stranded, the former Feyenoord and Blackburn midfielder produced a delightful chip to put the Sky Blues ahead.

As the game reached its conclusion Perth pushed on but had little to show for their endeavour. In fact it was Sydney who nearly

pushed home their advantage when Lovrek's shot was deflected over by Van Den Brink.

With less than five minutes remaining the visitors had penalty appeals of their own when the ball appeared to strike Rhyan Grant's arm from Nick Ward's header, however referee Peter Green turned down their requests.

In the closing minutes Necevski produced a fine save to tip over the bar from Harold to keep the Sky Blues in front and secure the three points.



Alessandro Del Piero makes good from the spot for the second successive week. Photo: GREG SEATON



Michael Thwaite (Glory) and Kruno Lovrek (SFC) race for the loose ball. Photo: GREG SEATON

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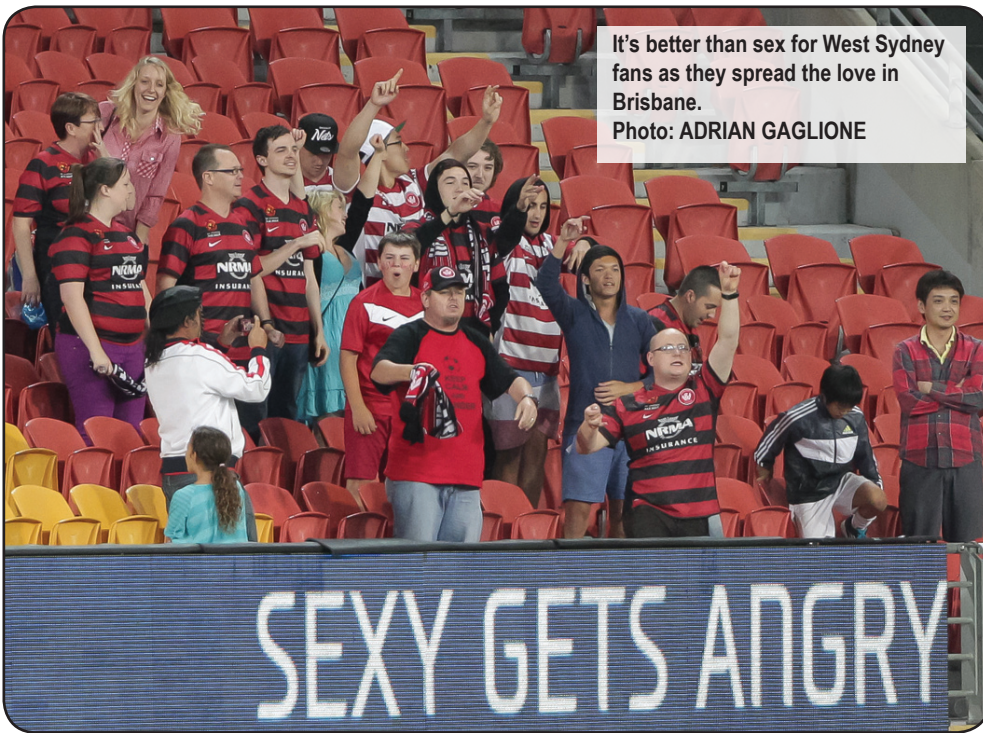
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A training ground manouevred free-kick comes off to perfection for Trent Sainsbury and scorer Pedj Bojic.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



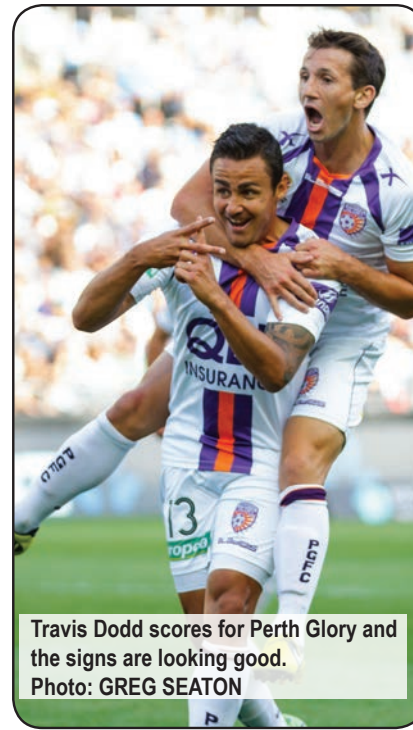
Brisbane Roar captain Matt Smith heads clear the danger from a West Sydney Wanderers attack. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



It's better than sex for West Sydney fans as they spread the love in Brisbane.
Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Emile Heskey endears himself to the Jets faithful.
Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Travis Dodd scores for Perth Glory and the signs are looking good.
Photo: GREG SEATON



Flyin High III: Table topping Adelaide United fans fly their colours high.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Jets fans keep the scarf business booming in Newcastle. PHOTO: BEN NEVILLE



Its smiles from ear to ear for the Phoenix after Belgian striker Stein Huysegems (centre) scored. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Roar fans were in for an early Halloween shock. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Wanderers Line Up

- Ante Covic (GK)
- Shannon Cole
- Adam D'apuzzo
- Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- Michael Beauchamp
- Jerome Polenz
- Labinot Haliti
- Mateo Poljak
- Aaron Mooy
- Tarek Elrich
- Tahj Minniecon
- Joey Gibbs
- Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
- Youssef Hersi
- Mark Bridge, 20
- Jerrad Tyson (GK)
- Shinji Ono
- Jason Trifiro

*three to be omitted
Ins: 2. Shannon Cole, 7. Labinot Haliti, 12. Tahj Mlnniecon (all promoted)

Outs: 18. Iacopo La Rocca (injured)

Unavailable: 9. Dino Kresinger (injured), 15. Reece Caira (Young Socceroos)

W Sydney Wanderers v Melb Heart

By Ian Syson

It may well be a slightly despondent Melbourne Heart that travels to Parramatta Stadium for the first time ever this Friday night to meet a no doubt buoyant Western Sydney Wanderers fresh from its first goal and first win, against defending champions Brisbane Roar.

The Cardiac Boys will be looking to arrest their descent into flatlining, scoreless performances while the home team will be keen to build on the fact that they have at last converted a good performance into a victory.

This is the game that pits the two 'new boys' of the A League together, the as yet secondary clash between the shadow teams of the country's two biggest cities. A lack of clarity as to Heart's constituency (overshadowed by the monolith that is Melbourne Victory – albeit one Heart regularly beats) and the sheer freshness and ambition of the whole Wanderers show gives this inaugural fixture a touch of the clean slate, and suggests a rich history to be written. In years to come this will be the fixture that measures the A League's health and so neutrals might want to wish it the best of luck.

Both teams have claimed a commitment to good open football and that both have demonstrated, at times, that very thing. Defence



The Odds

WSW 2.60
Draw 3.30
Heart 2.90

Wanderers Prepare For Heart Attack

is the least of these teams' problems. Simon Colosimo and Patrick Gerhart are solid at the back for Heart while Wanderers have also recruited well at the back, notably Michael Beauchamp from Heart.

Both teams attack well down the flanks and have exciting players in those positions. Wanderers Aaron Mooy seems a gem in midfield and it feels inevitable that Shinji Ono will soon elbow himself some room on the marquee stage to match the deeds of Del Piero and Heskey. For Heart, Fred is still one of the best attacking midfielders in the competition and David Williams has a lot of

room to move from achievement to potential.

The problem for both teams has been at the pointy end. They have simply been unable to stick the ball in the net. Wanderers have scored the fewest goals (1) but have taken the most shots while Heart has now gone 250 minutes without scoring after looking like netting a hatful in the Melbourne Derby and squandering a number of chances in the follow-up against Wellington.

In terms of results so far, my sense is that Wanderers have been downright unlucky not to sit in the top half of the table. And while Heart are less unfortunate

to be propping up the table, but for a couple of moments that didn't go their way they too would be sitting much higher.

The season's story so far points to a low scoring game, perhaps even a goalless draw. However, both of these teams are capable of scoring a hatful if their strikers can find their radars. David Williams has promised that his team "will go through a run of form very soon that will get a lot of people talking about Melbourne Heart." Let's hope that it is sooner rather than later.

**Kiss of Death
Wanderers 1-2 Heart**



Heart Line Up

- Clint Bolton (Gk)
- Michael Marrone
- Simon Colosimo
- Patrick Gerhardt
- Matthew Thompson
- Dylan Macallister
- Josip Tadic
- Richard Garcia
- David Williams
- Aziz Behich
- Jason Hoffman
- Andrew Redmayne (Gk)
- Steven Gray
- Nick Kalmar
- Mate Dugandzic
- Sam Mitchinson

*One To Be Omitted
Ins: 24. Sam Mitchinson (Promoted – National Youth League).

Outs: 5. Fred (C) (Hamstring – One Week), 13. Jonatan Germano (Fitness – Undisclosed), 14. Golgol Mebrahtu, 18. David Vrankovic (International Duty - Qantas Young Socceroos), 19. Ben Garuccio (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos)



Mariners Line Up

- Mathew Ryan (Gk)
- Daniel McBreem
- Joshua Rose
- Pedj Bojic
- Zac Anderson
- Patrick Zwaanswijk
- John Hutchinson (c)
- Adriano Pellegrino
- Bernie Ibini
- Tomas Rogic
- Oliver Bozanic
- Troy Hearfield
- Brent Griffiths
- Michael McGlinchey
- Brad McDonald
- Trent Sainsbury
- Anthony Caceres
- Nick Montgomery
- Mitchell Duke
- Justin Pasfield (Gk)
- Mile Sterjovski
- Adam Kwasnik

*seven to be omitted
Ins: 8. Adriano Pellegrino (promoted), 11. Oliver Bozanic (promoted), 13. Brent Griffiths (promoted), 15. Brad McDonald (promoted), 17. Anthony Caceres (returns from injury), 19. Mitchell Duke (promoted), 23. Adam Kwasnik (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC

By Adrian Deans

In my last preview, I suggested that the Mariners v Heart game was so tight it would take a piece of brilliance from a Behich or a Rogic to decide. If I'd only combined those names, I might have come up with Bojic.

What a cracking goal. I've been whinging about the Mariners' change of shape for this season – it's made them super-hard to score against, but with the dashing flankers of the last two seasons confined to sentry duty, the Mariners do not have the old rhythm going forward. If Arnie changed the shape to protect the confidence of Trent Sainsbury – mission accomplished. Sainsbury is already looking very assured next to Patrick Zwaanswijk, so unleash the shackles Arnie! Let Rose and Bogic plunder forward and let the devil take the hindmost!

The Mariners' foes, this week, are the (slightly) resurgent Sydney FC.

Six points in two weeks, but I'm not convinced. They've had a bit of luck and could just as easily have lost both games. They look shaky in defence and over-reliant on Del Piero up front. Mind you, there have been promising signs – Rhyan Grant has looked confident (and effective) at right back, Necevski has been safe in goal, Emerton looks like he's getting



The Odds

Mariners 2.12
Draw 3.40
Sydney 4.00

Marquee? Or not Marquee? That is the Question...

back into form and Del Piero is Del Piero. But for me the most interesting player of the last couple of games has been Ali Abbas.

In recent years, Sydney FC have struggled to forge a coherent link between defence and attack. Abbas provides that link really well. He has excellent skill on the ball, great vision, and more often than not plays intelligent balls which find their mark and give time and space to a team mate in the attacking third. His ball to Emerton last week was a game-changing moment of brilliance of which few players in this league would be ca-

pable. If he continues to link with the two marquees like that (and if Sydney can shore up their leaky defence), Sydney may well be in for a vintage season.

As for marquees, Graham Arnold extolled the virtue during the week of the Mariners' marquee-free zone and the power of their team spirit. This is an obvious challenge to the riches of Sydney with two players worth more than the Mariners' entire squad – who are behind the Mariners on the table and nowhere near as convincing.

There will be a big crowd on hand and Del Piero, ornament to

the game though he be, will be up against the best (most organised) defence in the league, and he won't enjoy it. Furthermore, there are whispers Del Piero is carrying an injury and unhappy with the way his team mates are adapting to his style. There was much speculation about what made Del Piero so animated in his passionate post-match discussion with Zeljko Kalac last week.

Bluetongue Stadium is no place to come with a big reputation and dodgy hamstrings.

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 2-0 Sydney FC**



Sydney FC Line Up

- Ivan Necevski (gk)
- Sebastian Ryall
- Brett Emerton
- Paul Reid
- Alessandro Del Piero
- Dimi Petratos
- Blake Powell
- Mitch Mallia
- Terry McFlynn
- Trent McClenahan
- Kruno Lovrek
- Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
- Yairo Yau
- Ali Abbas
- Rhyan Grant
- Daniel Petkovski

*one to be omitted
Ins: Blake Powell (returns from injury), Dimi Petratos (promoted)

Outs: Terry Antonis (international duty)

Unavailable: 3. Fabio (groin, 2 weeks), 4. Pascal Bosschaart (back, 1 week), 5. Nathan Sherlock (groin, 2 weeks), 6. Jason Culina (leg, unknown), 8. Adam Griffiths (hamstring, 2 weeks), 16. Joel Chianese (quad, 2 weeks), 24. Hagi Gligor (not selected).



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Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
3.Bas van den Brink
4.Billy Mehmet
5.Steve Pantelidis
6.Nick Ward
7.Jacob Burns (c)
8.Dean Heffernan
10.Liam Miller
11.Adrian Zahra
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
15.Brandon O'Neill
17.Chris Harold
18.Jesse Makarounas
19.Josh Risdon
21.Scott Jamieson
22.Ndumba Makeche
23.Michael Thwaite
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)
four to be omitted

Ins: 11.Adrian Zahra, 15.Brandon O'Neill, 18.Jesse Makarounas, 22.Ndumba Makeche (all promoted).

Outs: 5.Steve Pantelidis (suspended – 1 game)

Unavailable: 5.Steve Pantelidis (suspended – 1 game), 9.Shane Smeltz (hamstring – 1 week), 12.Ryo Nagai (nerve (back) – 1 week), 16.Evan Berger (hamstring – TBA).

Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets

By Juanita Shepherd

Emile Heskey. Enough said. He’s played for Liverpool, Wigan Athletic, Aston Villa, represented England on an international scale, the list is endless and poses a definite threat for Perth Glory. Heskey is the not so secret weapon of the Newcastle Jets.

He signed with the Jets 21 September and scored his first goal in the Hyundai A-League season on 13 October against Sydney FC, the mere mention of the former Liverpool striker would send anyone cowering. But football is a team game and Heskey knows it as does Jets coach Gary Van Egmond cleverly construing a possible win with some of the team’s many talents of Jobe Wheelhouse, Michael Bridges another former Premier League player and the hopeful return of Scott Neville from injury when the Jets take on Perth Glory at nib Stadium on November 3.

Glory comes into the game with the Jets after a disappointing loss against Sydney in Round 3 of the A-league, succumbing to goals by Alessandro Del Piero and Brett Emerton. Perhaps the Glory team couldn’t handle Del Piero? Or it could’ve just been the incompetence of the referrers according to Ian Ferguson; whatever the cause for their loss Glory isn’t in the best frame of mind to take on the Jets; who have not only hyped up Heskey but also have a championship

The Odds

Glory 2.10
Draw 3.60
Jets 3.75

Glory Prepares For Heskey and Co

win to their name, unlike Perth Glory who remains second best. Saturday’s game will prove to the football community just how well Glory can cope under pressure. So far they haven’t lost any of their home games, they have that one advantage and everyone knows that when you’re playing on your home turf the feeling of invincibility is strong. With Shane Smeltz back from injury, Mehmet, Miller, Thwaite, Vuckovic all ready to go Glory’s determination might just see them scrape a win, not to mention the raising skills of Josh Risdon who’s possession of the ball, speed and agility is beginning to

pose a threat to the opposition. Glory needs to play like they did when they took on Brisbane Roar, it was a brilliant start to the season but since then Glory has been inconsistent with their wins, unlike the Newcastle Jets.

It’s not just the big names that help secure a win, but it’s the whole team working together and this year the Jets have experienced three wins from their four opening games resulting in the club’s best ever start to the A-League season. Glory on the other hand started with a bang but seemed to only win their home games, which would be an added advantage at nib Sta-

dium. The Jets haven’t defeated Perth Glory since 2005; they too are in a delicate frame of mind. It is possible that the Jets see Perth Glory as having won six games and drawing three and the last four encounters resulting in victory to Glory by a total nine goals to nil.

Sunday’s game is a highly anticipated one; with all eyes on Heskey and everyone thinking can Glory pull it off or will the Jets prove that they are unbeatable, it’ll be a game you wouldn’t want to miss.

**Kiss of Death
Roar 2-0 Wanderers**

Jets Line Up

2. Scott NEVILLE
3. Tiago CALVANO
4. Josh MITCHELL
5. Dominik RITTER
6. Ben KANTAROVSKI
7. James BROWN
8. Ruben ZADKOVICH
9. Emile HESKEY
10. Bernardo RIBEIRO
14. Taylor REGAN
15. Craig GOODWIN
16. Joe WHEELHOUSE (c)
17. James VIRGILI
18. Jacob PEPPER
19. Michael BRIDGES
20. Mark BIRIGHITTI
21. Marko JESIC
23. Ryan GRIFFITHS
33. Matt NASH (gk)
4 to be omitted

Ins: James BROWN, Bernardo RIBEIRO, Matt NASH, Scott NEVILLE and Taylor REGAN.

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Josh BRILLANTE, Connor CHAPMAN, Jack DUNCAN, Mitch OXBORROW and Adam TAGGART (all on Young Socceroos duty).

Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
2. Matt Smith (capt.)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murodocca
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
14. Rocky Visonte
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (GK)
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald
four to be omitted

Ins: Rocky Visconte (promoted), Do Dong-Hyun (promoted), Nick Fitzgerald (promoted), Ivan Franjic (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United

ByJarrod Ellis

When Brisbane host Adelaide this Sunday it’s the Reds who will enter the match the higher of the two on the ladder, a situation that hasn’t occurred for quite some time now.

Undeniably it’s Adelaide who has started the season the brighter, leading the league with three wins from four and continuing on from an Asian Champions League campaign where they were the only Australian side to progress past the group stage.

Brisbane have shown promise over their first four games but after last weekend’s shock loss to Western Sydney Wanderers the Roar have only collected four points and sit in seventh place.

After the 1-0 defeat to Wanderers, Roar coach Rado Vidosic was at a loss to explain the performance, claiming the team trained well and that maybe the lingering effects of away trips to Perth and Wellington in the first three weeks had made an impact.

If that’s the case then Brisbane will have no excuses this weekend for another poor display, playing at home for consecutive rounds - the first time this season.

The Roar will need to increase their performances across the board if they’re to defeat Adelaide. Traditional key players Thomas Broich and Erik Paartalu

The Odds

Roar 1.77
Draw 3.75
AUGC 5.00

Roar Look to Bounce Back Against Reds

were particularly poor against Western Sydney; the latter substituted by Vidosic much to his displeasure.

The only real positive to come from last weekend’s match was the return of Henrique and the Roar faithful will be hoping that the incisive forward play that was so glaringly absent last week.

It’s not yet known if Ivan Franjic will make a return for Brisbane, the fullback is yet to make an appearance this season, Jack Hingert having been a constant in the first eleven during his absence.

Adelaide will enter the match thankful to have the services of one Jeronimo Neumann, the diminutive Argentine having stirred up a storm of controversy after his involvement in earning a penalty for his side that saw Wellington’s Ben Sigmund sent off.

The incident was reviewed by the A-League Match Review Panel but the powers that be found that Neumann had done nothing wrong and upheld referee Jarred Gillett’s decision.

The Argentine striker has been in excellent form this season and along with Dario Vidosic the Reds have two players that could

create a goal from nothing.

Iain Ramsey is another who’s impressed this season and with Franjic likely to be out and Stefanutto’s legs another year older Ramsey could prove a handful for the Roar out wide.

John Kosmina’s side have so far looked a vast improvement on the Adelaide United of last season and with a poor recent record at Suncorp Stadium Adelaide will have plenty of motivation to prove that they’re no early season flash in the pan.

**Kiss of Death
Roar 2-2 Adelaide**

Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
2.Osama Malik
3.Nigel Boogaard
5.Iain Fyfe
6.Cassio
8.Marcelo Carrusca
9.Sergio van Dijk
10.Dario Vidosic
11.Bruce Djite
12.Antony Golec
14.Cameron Watson
16.Daniel Bowles
17.Iain Ramsay
19.Jake Barker-Daish
21.Jeronimo Neumann
22.Fabio Ferreira
30.John Hall (gk)
two to be omitted

Ins: Nigel Boogaard (promoted), Jake Barker-Daish (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Jon McKain (leg – to be reviewed), Paul Izzo (gk) (international duty)

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REARCS FOOTBALL



Victory Line Up

1. Tando VELAPHI (GK)
2. Matthew FOSCHINI
3. Adama TRAORE
4. Petar FRANJIC
5. Mark MILLIGAN
6. Leigh BROXHAM
7. Gui FINKLER
8. Jonathan BRU
9. Marcos FLORES
10. Archie THOMPSON
11. Marco ROJAS
13. Diogo FERREIRA
14. Billy CELESKI
15. Sam GALLAGHER
16. Theo MARKELIS
17. Jimmy JEGGO
19. Isaka CERNAK
23. Adrian LEIJER (c)
26. Andrew NABBOUT
39. Nathan COE (GK)
- *5 to be omitted*

Ins: Gui FINKLER (returns from injury), Andrew NAB-BOUT (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable : Nil

Melb Victory v Wellington Phoenix

Mon Nov 05 Etihad Stadium 7:30pm

By Andrew Bishara

Ange Postecoglou, said it was “best all-round performance we have had so far” following Melbourne’s 2-1 defeat to Newcastle last weekend. Postecoglou hit the nail on the head when he admitted, “We should have been more ruthless in that front third. We played some good football and we defended pretty well most of the time. Just probably decision making cost us.”

Victory sit bottom of the ladder, with a single win to their name. It’s not the sort of start many thought that would happen upon Postecoglou’s arrival. They expected a fast-flowing Brisbane Roar style game and while there have been flashes of that type of football, the players had yet to fully adapt to it.

Which makes this week’s clash with the Wellington Phoenix all that more important. Hosted on Melbourne Cup Eve, Victory will need a win against the New Zealanders if they are going to get their season back on track. Having the Victory faithful there to support them on should inspire them to grab that elusive second win.

The Phoenix are coming off a week of controversy following their 3-1 defeat to Adelaide United at Hindmarsh. Phoenix captain, Andrew Durante, caused a stir when he labeled Adelaide’s Jeronimo Neumann a ‘cheat’ for



The Odds

Victory 2.40
Draw 3.30
Phoenix 3.00

Melbourne looking for Victory over Phoenix

taking a dive forcing Ben Sigmund, who fouled him, to be sent off.

Accusations of diving, cheating, red cards have grabbed all attention this week and Wellington will be stung by the Football Federation Australia’s decision to uphold Sigmund’s red card. Ricki Herbert hasn’t tried to defuse the situation either, by blasting the decision by the FFA to take no action against Neumann.

Herbert though, should get his team focused for this week’s game. The Phoenix needs to get their mind off the controversy that has followed them and put it behind them with a win. It’s the second consecutive week that

the Wellington has travelled, so there will be some tired legs on the pitch.

The game against Adelaide was theirs for the taking, and despite the red card, they let themselves down with a mediocre second half, when they let Adelaide run them over. They won’t want to let his happen for the second game running.

Apart from Sigmund, Herbert has a full team to take down to the icy shores of Melbourne for this clash. It will be tough game for the Phoenix, who has poor record against the Victory. They have lost their past three games against Melbourne, with Wellington’s last win over the Victory in

January 2011.

Victory also has a full strength squad, with Brazilian Gus Finkler, set to return after missing the Newcastle game with an injury. He enjoyed his best game a fortnight ago when he torn apart Adelaide and Postecoglou will be buoyed by his return.

After praising his team’s efforts last week, Postecoglou will hope that his boys can take it one step further and grab that victory, against a Phoenix side that wants to put “Jeronimo-Gate” behind them. Expect Melbourne to pinch it.

**Kiss of Death
Victory 2-1 Phoenix**



Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
5. Michael Boxall
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
20. Glen Moss (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
28. Ricardo Clarke
- *1 to be omitted*

Ins: Michael Boxall (promoted)

Outs: Ben Sigmund (suspended)

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Mirjan Pavlovic (medical condition – indefinite), Dani Sanchez (knee injury – 4 weeks).



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CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS



Tom Rogic



Michael McGlinchey



Graham Arnold



Mile Sterjovski



Pedj Bojic



John Hutchinson



Patrick Zwaanswijk



Nick Montgomery



Bernie Ibini

PHOTOS: JOHN DEWBERRY

GOAL!
CENTRAL COAST
MARINERS



Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

It was certainly a controversial weekend of football, with diving, cheating, blatant refereeing errors and alleged racial abuse all making headlines.

Geronimo Neumann made the most of a slight tug from Ben Sigmund to get him sent off in the Adelaide v Wellington encounter on Friday night. The FFA subsequently upheld the red card and took no further action against United's match-winner. It was the post-game interview with an aggrieved

Phoenix captain Andrew Durante which interested me the most. He called Neumann a cheat and declared the refereess had a shocking night. This probably means he will get a fine from the FFA, which one would hope the good folks at Fox Sports will pay on his behalf. If not, they should do away with their ridiculous half-time and immediate post-game on-pitch interviews. When the players can't speak their minds in the heat of the moment without getting fined, we are left with interviews that are not worth bothering with in any case. Time for the FFA to decide which they would prefer, but as we saw with Clive Palmer they are not great fans of Freedom of Speech.

Manchester United's match-winner, referee Mark Clattenburg, has been accused of racial abusing two Chelsea players in the heated EPL match of the week. It would be interesting to get Rio Ferdinand's opinion on the matter. We know he wasn't happy with the result of an



Jason Trafiro wins the 2011 Gold Medal and receives a big sloppy one from Northcote City's Peter Kotsiridis.

inquiry into his brother Anton being abused by Chelsea's John Terry. So much so that he didn't wear a "Kick It Out" anti-racism t-shirt a few weeks ago in protest. Did he hear any of the alleged abuse?

Closer to home, FFV CEO Mark Rendell has resigned from

his post. To many this is very welcome news, though celebrations have been tempered with the sobering thought that some of the damage done to local football during his tenure may be irreperable. Having failed to the senior men's component of the Summer/Champions

League up and running as per the grand FFV Strategic Plan of a few years ago, maybe he realised that most of the FFA's NCR proposals were likely to be a few more bridges too far to fully implement?

Jason Trifiro made his A-League debut for Western

Sydney Wanderers on the weekend, coming on as a substitute in their first ever win. More than a few VPL followers noted that the Fox Sports graphics of the team line-ups had him suprisingly listed as reserve goalkeeper. It's a position the midfielder, who could be described as diminutive, is more than a little unlikely to ever play. Strange also that Simon Hill should refer to him as having come from Northcote City in the VPL given South Melbourne was his last club in the competition before joing WSW.

Harry Kewell Club Watch, week five: Hasn't found a club yet, but has lined up a marquee for the Melbourne Cup Carnival. Speaking of the Cup, we've had Irish, English, Japanese, French, German, Italian and American raiders, but when are the Dutch going to have a crack? Surely Ruud van Nistelrooy could still run out a strong two miles?

BOOTS 'N ALL



Roger Sleeman

LEFT FULLBACK DILEMMA Among the problems Holger Osieck faces with the Socceroo squad is finding a regular left back. For the last few years he'd been utilising David Carney but the journeyman just couldn't cut it and after the Scotland match, Jason Davidson wasn't recalled for the Jordan and Iraq World Cup qualifiers.

Matt McKay has been used on several occasions but is more suited to a midfield role. Last week Mike Cockerill suggested that either Cassio or Traore should be made eligible to play for the Socceroos. Frankly, I believe we should be looking at young local players like Aziz Behich, who despite his questionable temperament, is a tremendous attacking player with genuine pace and is also a strong defender.

There is also Josh Rose who was in tremendous form two years ago but was ignored for selection. Probably, Adam D' Apuzzo deserved a chance before he went into temporary retirement and Shane Stefannuto could be reconsidered but we tend to ignore A-League players. Perhaps the best option is Chris Herd who was playing very effectively as a man marker for Aston Villa last weekend against Norwich because has a very sweet left foot and is a great utility player.



The Jets have still got Michael Bridges to call upon if desired.

Critically, Osieck must make up his mind soon. Oh, for the days of Stan Ackerley, Col Curran, Alan Ainslie, Graham Jennings, Alan Davidson, Jason Van Blerk and Stan Lazarides who were all highly accomplished left fullbacks who would all walk into this team today.

THE MOUSE THAT ROARED It's a bit early to write off Brisbane Roar for honours this season but if they continue to perform the way they did against Wellington when they should've wrapped the game up easily in the second half, and when they were outplayed by the Wanderers last weekend, they are heading to the point of no return. The practice of Matt Smith pushing the ball square to either Stefanutto or Jurman time after time is becoming highly monotonous and totally ineffective. Admittedly, they are badly missing the overlapping runs of Ivan Franjic but in Murdocca, Nicholls Hal-

loran and Broich they have players who can penetrate defences so I say to Rado Vidosic, stop the possession football and push forward and attack or pretty soon your fans will desert you. Certainly, Frank Farina's teams never played this way as the former Socceroo coach always attempted to entertain the fans at Brisbane.

COMPARING COMMENTATORS What a pleasure to hear the call of Dom Rinaldo in last Saturday's clash between Adelaide United and Wellington. Ronaldo didn't state the obvious and only called the match when something was happening the viewer couldn't see or needed to be emphasised. Effective calling is simply having the ability to see action off the ball which depending on camera angles, the viewer can't always observe. Rinaldo's excellent call was in stark contrast to that of Robbie Thomson who was speaking nonstop and



Ben Garruccio makes his debut for Heart and mixes it with former EPL star Nick Montgomery (Mariners). Photo: DANIEL FLIS

literally not drawing breath in the Heart v Mariners and continually describing every moment of the match while stating the obvious. John Kosmina's post match comment to Rinaldo that he was elated with his team's win but not with Rinaldo interviewing him was an insult to a man who is easy to listen to and reveals a good understanding of the game. Perhaps, Kosmina should take a closer listen to some of the other commentators the viewing audience has to tolerate week in and week out, before he makes such statements again. It begs the question that when is Fox Sports going to audition some former player to call matches so that the viewers can be educated with true insights of a match, rather than the continual calling of what is seen on the TV screen. I'm talking about former Socceroos like Robbie Wheatley, Frank Farina, Alan Davidson Paul Wade. Kimon Taliadoros and Peter Katholos to name just a few who have excellent presence,

great speaking voices and wide knowledge. Most importantly, they command respect from everybody in the game.

A BRIDGE TOO FAR With the Newcastle Jets firing on all cylinders due to the goal scoring prowess of Emile Heskey, the emergence of Crag Goodwin and the great form of Ryan Griffiths it would be easy to forget that Gary Van Edmond's trump card, Michael Bridges, is warming the benches and ready to jump out of his skin to team up with Heskey. It is ironic that Bridge's influence was the major factor in Heskey deciding to come to Australia, yet he certainly is not reaping the benefits. Bridges has never been fitter during his career in Australia and I have no doubt the team would be even more effective if he was playing just behind or next to Heskey. His ability to hold the ball up,

close skills, intelligence off the ball and unique finishing is rarely seen in Australian football but he has barely played more than 30 minutes this year. For the benefit of the Jets and the entertainment of the fans, one would hope Bridges is playing regularly sooner rather than later or are we to believe that Van Egmond thinks that the former England star is not in his plans, and if so why not?

ANOTHER INCOMPLETE AIS PRODUCT

I watched in amazement last weekend as Ben Garuccio, the Australian u/20 squad member, made his debut for the Heart against the Mariners. Garuccio is a nuggety little player but the fact that stood out immediately was that he was totally left sided which immediately limited his ability to threaten the opposition.

I clearly remember a situation in the second half when he was closed down on either side by two Mariner opponents and he had to use his left foot to release the ball backwards. In this phase of play he was fortunate not to have his left ankle crunched, there was so little room to move.

Three years ago (not four years ago as some publications are reporting) when Han Berger came to Australia, I questioned him about one sided players but obviously nothing has changed because we're still producing these limited players. When he is writing version 2 of the curriculum, Berger has to address this problem.

You only have to examine one of the reasons Del Piero is so effective is because he can shield the ball so well on both sides of his body and Geronimo, the Adelaide United sensation, is also brilliant in this facet of the game. Paul Okon was a great two sided player so maybe he can work on Garuccio introducing the right side to his repertoire.

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Victory and Mariners Remain Unbeaten

By Daniel Quinn

The second round of the NYL saw plenty of goals as the Central Coast Mariners and Melbourne Victory remain the only two sides with a one-hundred percent record, while four sides remain winless.

The round kick-off on Thursday night as a ten-man Western Sydney Wanderers side were pegged back from two goals in front and were forced to settle for a point in the 2-2 draw with Newcastle Jets.

The Wanderers got off to a great start with their first on 18 minutes as Reece Caira finished superbly on the volley, before the former Aston Villa youngster doubled the visitors lead with a long range screamer of a drive on the half hour mark. But the Jets pulled one back through a fantastic Stevan Ilic diving header.

Newcastle kept coming but butchered many chances, but Kale Bradbery found the much deserved equaliser firing into the bottom corner.

The action wasn't over though as Caira was given his second yellow card, but Western Sydney held on for a point.

On Saturday the Central Coast Mariners came from behind to defeat the Melbourne Heart 2-1 at John Cain Memorial Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Heart got off to a flyer as Stipo Andriyasevic gave the hosts the lead with a superb finish at the back post.

But the Mariners replied shortly after through Mitchell Duke who powered through



Adelaide United's Thomas Briscoe nods home in the 5-1 demolition of the AIS. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

the defence before emphatically finishing. And it didn't take long for the Mariners to take the lead as Daniel Bragg sensationally lobbed Mariners 'keeper Alastair Bray. Heart's chances of grabbing a late equaliser were narrowed late on as Stefan Mauk was given his second yellow for diving.

In Adelaide on Sunday, Adelaide United thumped the AIS 5-1 at Burton Park. But it was the AIS who took the lead as Josh Barresi stole the ball off Jordan Elsey and slotted past Reds 'keeper John Hall. The Reds though equalised shortly after as Evan Kostopoulos finished of Thomas Briscoe's pass.

Kostopoulos didn't take long to grab his brace and handed Adelaide the lead as the 22-year-old powered a low effort past AIS 'keeper Lucas Spinella. And seconds later Adelaide made it 3-1 as a Briscoe effort was deflected off AIS defender Jeremy Tshongo, before beating his own 'keeper who could only watch. Briscoe was involved soon afterwards nodding in a delightful, whipping Allan Welsh cross adding a fourth.

As the encounter was no longer a contest the second-half slowed down, but John Karatzas headed in a fifth with fifteen to play. As a curtain raiser before the A-League encounter at ANZ



Victory Youth teammates congratulate goalscorer Jake Nakiic (9). Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Stadium Perth Glory defeated hosts Sydney FC 4-2. The Sky Blues took the lead on 17 minutes as Alex Urosevski brilliantly weaved himself out of trouble before sliding the ball home. But Adrian Zahra equalised for the Glory from close range three minutes later. And soon afterwards Perth turned the game around as Brandon O'Neill volleyed home from the edge of the penalty box. The Glory added a third before the break as a Matthew Davies long effort was dropped into the net by Sydney 'keeper Ryan Norval.

Early into the second-half Sydney got one back in spectacular fashion as a Peter Triantis free-kick was wacked into the top corner, before Harry O'Brien added a fourth for the visitors. The Melbourne Victory continued their perfect start with a second consecutive NYL win with a 1-0 victory over Brisbane Roar at Goodwin Park. The Victory thought they opened the scoring on 29 minutes, but Isaka Cernak bundled the ball over the line with his hand, so the referee ruled it out. But the visitors did take the lead four minutes before the interval as Skipper Jake Nakic finished an Andrew Nabbout cross.

Round 2 Results	
Brisbane Roar 0	Melbourne Victory 1 (Nakic 40)
Sydney FC 2 (Alec Urosevski 17, Peter Triantis 51)	Perth Glory 4 (Adrian Zahra 21, Brandon O'Neill 27, Matthew Davies 36, Harry O'Brien 79)
Adelaide United 5 (Kostopoulos 14, 27, Tshongo 28og, Briscoe 30, Karatzas 75)	AIS 1 (Barresi 8)
Melbourne Heart 1 (Stipo Andriyasevic 5)	Central Coast Mariners 2 (Mitchell Duke 15, Daniel Bragg 31)
Newcastle Jets 2 (Ilic 44, Bradbery 82)	Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (Caira 19, 33)

NYL Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Melbourne Victory	2 2 0 0 4 0 4 6
2 CC Mariners	2 2 0 0 4 2 2 6
3 Melbourne Heart	2 1 0 1 3 2 1 3
4 Brisbane Roar	2 1 0 1 2 2 0 3
5 Perth Glory	2 1 0 1 5 4 1 3
6 Adelaide United	2 1 0 1 5 4 -1 3
7 Newcastle Jets	2 0 1 1 3 4 -1 1
8 W Syd Wanderers	2 0 1 1 2 4 -2 1
9 Sydney FC	1 0 0 1 2 4 -2 0
10 AIS	1 0 0 1 1 5 -4 0

Round 3 Fixtures	
AIS v Melbourne Victory	Saturday 3 November KO 1:00 PM AIS Athletics Track
Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar	Saturday 3 November KO 3:00 PM John Cain Memorial Reserve, Thornbury
Western Sydney v Adelaide United	Saturday 3 November KO 4:45 PM Campbelltown Stadium
Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Sunday 4 November KO 10:30 AM Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah
Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	Sunday 4 November KO 6:00 PM Intiga Stadium, Inlgewood

Champs Dish Out Capital Punishment

By FFA

Canberra United got their Westfield W-League title defence back on track in emphatic style with a comprehensive 5-0 win over the Newcastle Jets at Wanderers Oval, Newcastle, on Saturday afternoon.

Canberra had the better of play in the first half but were kept scoreless by some good saves from Jets goalkeeper Eliza Campbell as the sides went to the break locked at 0-0.

But the floodgates opened in the second half at the visitors scored five goals in a 20-minute spree to blow out the scoreline.

The win sees Canberra still undefeated from two matches after being held to a 0-0 draw in the opening round of the season against the Roar, while Jets remain on one point from their opening draw with Sydney.

Sydney FC claimed bragging rights in the Westfield W-League's maiden derby with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Western Sydney Wanderers at Leichhardt Oval.

It was a crucial win for one of the traditional competition heavyweights after being held by Newcastle Jets on their own turf in last weekend's opening round.

The match proved to be a good-natured contest despite the Wanderers fielding several former Sydney FC players, plus numerous others who had worked under Sky Blues coach Alen Stajic at the NSW Institute of Sport.

The two teams made a high-tempo opening to the contest but goalscoring chances remained limited in the early stages.

New Zealand striker Emma Kete, one of Sydney FC's many new signings, made a goal from nothing by finding a yard on her marker just outside the penalty area, before hitting an inch-perfect shot inside the top corner of the net.



Not good place to be for Victory's newest player, Jessica McDonald ... in the middle of a Roar celebration.

All Photos: JOHN PUNSHON

Despite the sometimes end-to-end nature of an entertaining match there were few goalmouth incidents as a Sydney FC side struggling for fluency hung on for three crucial points.

A superb Vedrana Popovic free-kick fired the Brisbane Roar to a 1-0 win over Melbourne Victory in the Westfield W-League at the Veneto Club on Saturday.

Victory were unlucky not to get an equaliser in a second half they dominated as they lost at home for the first time since the 2010/11 season.

The Roar continued to create and they took the lead just three minutes later thanks to some individual brilliance from Popovic.

Her free-kick from the left floated past Victory goalkeeper Brianna

Davey and into the top right corner from 20 yards to give Brisbane the early advantage.

An 88th-minute goal from Elisa D'Ovidio gave Perth Glory their second win of the Westfield W-League season as they came from behind to beat Adelaide United 2-1 at Intiga Stadium.

The Lady Reds went in front against the run of play through Ann Mayo before Kate Gill equalised on the stroke of half-time and D'Ovidio netted the winner on Saturday.

With the temperature over 30 degrees for the duration of the game, conditions were difficult for both sets of players who were glad for a drinks break in each half.



Vedrana Popovic (Roar) is determined to block Stephanie Catley's shot for Victory



Caitlin Friend (Victory) goes down in her battle with former team-mate Katrina Gorry, now with Roar.

Round 2 Results	
Newcastle Jets 0	Canberra United 5 (Hayley Raso 74, Michelle Heyman 84, Ariane Hingst 86, Caitlin Munoz 87, Ashleigh Sykes 90+5)
Sydney FC 1 (Emma Kete 29')	Western Sydney Wanderers 0
Melbourne Victory 0	Brisbane Roar 1 (Vedrana Popovic 18)
Perth Glory 2 (Kate Gill 45, Elisa D'Ovidio 88)	Adelaide United 1 (Ann Mayo 41)

W-League Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Perth Glory	2 2 0 0 4 1 3 6
2 Canberra United	2 1 0 0 5 0 5 4
3 Sydney FC	2 1 1 0 4 3 1 4
4 Brisbane Roar	2 1 1 0 1 0 1 4
5 Adelaide United	2 1 0 1 5 5 0 3
6 Newcastle Jets	2 0 1 1 3 8 -5 1
7 WS Wanderers FC	2 0 0 2 3 5 -2 0
8 Melbourne Victory	2 0 0 2 0 3 -3 0

Round 3 Fixtures	
Melbourne Victory Vs Newcastle Jets	Sat 3 Nov KO 2:00pm Simonds Stadium
WS Wanderers FC Vs Perth Glory	Sat 3 Nov KO 2:00pm Campbelltown Stadium
Brisbane Roar Vs Sydney FC	Sat 3 Nov KO 3:00pm Cleveland Showgrounds
Canberra United Vs Adelaide United	Sat 3 Nov KO 4:00pm McKellar Park, Canberra

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS ONE

Sunday November 4th, 2012
 10:30 am FIFA World Cup 2014 Magazine -
 11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine
 - Highlights and news from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League.

Monday October 29th

4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial -
 Wednesday November 7th
 6:30am (aedt) Live - UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund
 Thursday November 8th
 6:30am (aedt) - UEFA Champions League: Chelsea v Shakhtar Donetsk

SBS TWO

Monday November 5th
 9:30 pm The World Game
 Monday November 5th
 7:25 pm FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012: Australia v Mexico - Live from Nimibutr Indoor Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand
 Wednesday November 7th
 9:30pm - UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund (Rpt)
 Thursday November 8th
 8:55 pm FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012: Australia v Argentina - Live from Nimibutr Indoor Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand.
 Thursday November 8th
 7:55 pm FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012: Australia v Argentina - Live from Nimibutr Indoor Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand.

SUNDAY 28TH OCTOBER

Npower Championship Blackpool v Brighton 12:55am **LIVE**
 Npower Championship Bristol City v Hull 3:15am **LIVE**
 Bundesliga Schalke v Nuremburg 9:15am 1st Airing
 Bundesliga Freiburg v Dortmund 1:15pm 1st Airing
 Scottish Division 3 Clyde v Rangers 11:45pm **LIVE**

MONDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Eredivisie Round 10 Feyenoord v Ajax 1:45am 1st Airing
 Bundesliga Round 9 Bayern Munich v Leverkusen 3:25am **LIVE**
 Primera Division Teams TBC 6:10am **LIVE**
 Bundesliga Round 9 Stuttgart v Frankfurt 8:15am 1st Airing
 Primera Division Teams TBC 10:10am **LIVE**
 Eredivisie RKC v Twente 12:15pm 1st Airing
 Eredivisie PEC v PSV 3:45pm 1st Airing
 Bundesliga Round 9 Highlights 7:00pm

TUESDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Npower Championship Highlights 7:00pm
 SPL Highlights 7:30pm
 Eredivisie Highlights 8:00pm

WEDNESDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Capital One Cup Round 4 Reading v Arsenal 6:40am **LIVE**
 Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 12:00pm **LIVE**

THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Capital One Cup Round 4 Chelsea v Man Utd 6:40am **LIVE**
 Capital One Cup Round 4 Norwich v Tottenham 9:30am 1st Airing
 Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 12:00pm **LIVE**
 Scottish League Cup Quarter-Final Dundee United v Hearts 4:15pm 1st Airing

FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 1st Leg -Nov Teams TBC 9:00am **LIVE**
 Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 12:00pm **LIVE**
 Bundesliga Round 10 Preview Show 1900 1st Airing

Friday 2nd Nov

02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
 03:00 am Arsenal TV
 08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
 Saturday 3rd Nov
 05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
 Sunday 4th Nov
 06:00 am Arsenal TV
 Monday 5th Nov
 03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
 12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show
 Tuesday 6th Nov
 03:00 am Arsenal TV
 Thursday 7th Nov
 02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup
 03:00 am Bundesliga
 05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
 Wednesday 7 November

Round 05: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Wanderers (6) Heart (1) Draw (1) - Mariners (5) SFC (1) Draw (2) - Glory (6) Jets (1) Draw (1) - Roar (4) Adelaide (1) Draw (3) - Victory (7) Phoenix (0) Draw (1)

SANTO CILAURO

10

Wanderers
 Draw
 Glory
 Roar
 Victory
 Last week: 3

CRAIG MACKENZIE

06

Western Sydney
 Central Coast
 Perth
 Draw
 Victory
 Last week: 1

EDDIE KRNEVIC

06

Draw
 Draw
 Glory
 Roar
 Victory
 Last week: 0

PETER KATHOLOS

04

Wanderers
 Mariners
 Glory
 Adelaide
 Victory
 Last week: 1

ROGER SLEEMAN

09

Wanderers
 Mariners
 Perth
 Draw
 Draw
 Last week: 3

ANDY HARPER

06

Wanderers
 Mariners
 Perth
 Brisbane
 Victory
 Last week: 3

JOHN DOYLE

07

Wanderers
 Sydney FC
 Jets
 Roar
 Vicroy
 Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH

06

Heart
 Mariners
 Draw
 Draw
 Victory
 Last week: 2

Lawn Bowls Rendell Bows Out

By Paul Mavroudis

COMMENT - FFV CEO RESIGNS

Mark Rendell's resignation as Football Federation Victoria CEO couldn't have come at a more crucial time, amid the biggest proposed reforms in Victorian soccer seen in decades. With Rendell hosting National Competitions Review information sessions as recently as mid-September, his sudden exit has caused much speculation as to the reasons for his resignation.

The fate of the NCR, as it was to be enacted in Victoria, could now be in limbo. The FFV, and Rendell in particular, were adamant that they would not baulk from the process. Yet many of the state's leading clubs are strongly opposed to the reforms. While four or five clubs are rumoured to be working with the FFV, only South Melbourne has come out and openly stated its intention to engage with the process with any sort of enthusiasm.

Coming across from Bowls Australia, where he had spent 11 years as either a director or CEO, Rendell was always on a hiding to nothing, especially from the game's conservative male soccer factions. Within days of his hiring he had been dubbed 'Mr Lawn Bowls', a nickname that stuck. Rendell's experience in lawn bowls seemed to inform his approach at the FFV, with an emphasis on expanding participation, especially in womens soccer. This focus on female soccer, while worthy, received criticism from some quarters as bordering on the obsessive. Many of those complainants also felt that the FFV's promotion of the Victory and Heart (but especially the former) saw little in the way of value returned. They argued that it wasn't the FFV's job to promote private businesses, especially with a limited budget to use on its own concerns.

But for all the criticism leveled at Rendell and the FFV on their lack of interest in elite senior men's soc-

cer, there were attempts to try and revive interest in the VPL. The grand final was played at AAMI Park, this year in conjunction with an A-League match. Last year saw the return of cup football for the first time since 2004, though interest seemed to fall significantly this season, amid complaints about costs and poor organisation. The FFV also ran weekly live VPL matches on the internet, though some wondered if that money wouldn't have been better spent on other media ventures.

There was also the attempt at creating a player development structure independent of clubs, who were perceived to be exploiting junior players in order to pay senior player wages. Rendell was thus an advocate of weakening the control that clubs had over the game, a system of governance in place since the early 1960s. Reforms which sought to grant more power to the majority of ordinary participants – players and parents. Others, though, felt that the net effect of the zone system was to place different mouths at the same trough, with the majority of the game's participants still more or less powerless.

The FFV also sought to reconnect country soccer to the metropolitan system. In addition to absorbing regional federations under its own banner, the FFV also attempted to bring in the Victorian Champions League, a zone based summer league for all

age groups.

However, the VCL senior men's competition never got started, and soon enough its senior women's counterpart fell over as well. There were complaints about travel; about the same sorts of biases being involved in selections; about making kids play throughout the entire year; about forcing junior players to play in the VCL if they wanted state selection. Still, there were those who looked forward to the VCL season, and it created a bridge between country and city soccer.

The FFV also got rid of the Super League system, often characterised by its constituents as a flawed but fixable system. The dissolution of the Super League system was widely panned by people involved at junior level. Mismatches became more frequent, diminishing the social experience of weaker players, while reducing the amount of high level competition faced by more talented players.

During Rendell's tenure, the FFV found itself in court against two of its clubs, Whittlesea Zebras and South Melbourne. Both times the FFV lost – the Zebras' court case in particular, in which the FFV was involved in turfing the Zebras out of Epping Stadium, seriously damaged the FFV's reputation among its constituents. The financial costs were also substantial. There was also an emphasis on stamping out poor behaviour on

and off the field. While docked points were used, the main deterrents used were fines. Several clubs were punished with five figure amounts – difficult enough for teams at the top of the league pyramid to deal with – all but impossible for clubs at the bottom.

The FFV claimed that its zero tolerance approach was working, while others wondered if punishing clubs instead of the individuals responsible was the right way to go. The move to the St Kilda Road headquarters also created discord. It hadn't been so long since the FFV had moved to the Darebin International Sports Centre – now it was moving again, and this time away from its grounds at DISC.

The Knox Regional Football Centre was unveiled this year with much fanfare, but there are allegations that proper due diligence was not performed, and that the facility is bleeding money. There have also been criticisms of the service that the FFV provides. The switch to the new results system (albeit due in large part to an FFA initiative) started off clunky and is still not seen as satisfactory by many of the game's constituents. In an era when a young Victorian cricketer can trace their statistics across every year of their career, the inability of the FFV to even have correct best and fairest vote tallies is inexcusable.

Whether sourced from within the game or outside of it, the new CEO has their work cut out for them. Among their tasks will be contending with the factional fighting and self-interest which Rendell was not able to stamp out. They'll have to quickly come to grips with the NCR reforms, whose final blueprint is due in January 2013.

They'll be in charge of a large and unwieldy organisation that appears to have high staff turnover, and a reputation of not delivering quality outcomes for its constituency. And perhaps hardest of all, they'll have to find ways of making the game more affordable for participants, as the costs of playing soccer in Victoria continue to rise.

Mark Rendell called it a day from the FFV CEO post. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Goal! Weekly - Friday 2nd November 2012

Send Pim a postcard from Turkey



LAST Saturday evening a Qantas flight took off from Sydney's Kingsford-Smith airport bound for the United Arab Emirates and carrying the most precious cargo in recent Australian football history.

On board was Young Socceroo supremo Paul Okon, his staff and most of the 13 Australian-based footballers who are part of our 23-strong squad which will contest the AFC Under-19 finals that start this weekend.

These young men are soon to answer a question prompted by our failure to reach the London Olympics, our failure to reach next year's World Under-17 finals and the spluttering, stuttering Socceroo performances on the road to Rio.

Those events have combined to form a perfect storm of controversy whose fury was unleashed last week when former Socceroo boss Pim Verbeek entered the debate over the short-term future of the national team with a devastating assessment.

"If you see the performance of their youth teams at the moment, it isn't that encouraging," said Verbeek in an interview with Qatari sports website Doha Stadium Plus.

"In the third round of the 2012 Olympic Games qualification, they (the Olyroos) played six games, but couldn't score a single goal.

"If that's the future of Australian football, then you would be seriously worried about that situation.

"The current crop of youngsters prefers to stay at home and play in the A-League, unlike in the past when the boys used to get to Europe in their teens and develop there.

"I'm afraid it'll take at least a generation to change."

Verbeek worries about finding the next Harry Kewell and the next Tim Cahill as do many observers of the Australian game.

It was well known during Verbeek's time with the Socceroos that he was uneasy with FFA's policy of protecting our development pathways to the point of being obstructionist when it came to granting young players an international clearance.

He reasoned that players would develop quicker in a professional club environment overseas than they would at the AIS or in our National Training Centre programs. No argument there.

It also makes good economic sense to use the resources and expertise of overseas clubs to de-

velop Socceroos of the future at no cost to us indeed the better these players become the greater likelihood of a significant transfer with a cut of the proceeds returning to Australian football.

It's a no-brainer from my perspective that rather than discouraging our most talented youngsters from going overseas we should be actively pushing them in that direction as the potential benefits to our game are enormous.

But Verbeek is way off the mark in delivering a slap in the face to the youngsters that are about to contest the AFC Under-19 finals. Make no mistake about it that is what his comments amount to.

Perhaps he is unaware of the presence and promise of Mustafa Amini (Borussia Dortmund), Travis Cooper (VVV Venlo), Ryan Edwards (Reading), Corey Gamero (FC Eindhoven), Curtis Good (Newcastle United), Jackson Irvine (Celtic), Liam Jacob (Oldham Athletic), Tom King (Bristol City), Jamie MacLaren (Blackburn Rovers) and Ryan Williams (Fulham) in Okon's squad.

And there are others based overseas who can consider themselves unlucky to have missed selection. I know some of those given the nod and I can assure Verbeek that they are hell-bent on reaching the semi-finals of the AFC tournament and securing a berth in next year's World Under-20 finals in Turkey.

As one of them recently said to me so succinctly and pointedly: "Whatever it takes."

The upside to the controversy over the future of our national teams is that former Socceroo captain Okon remains composed and measured in what represents the greatest challenge of his coaching career to date.

"Every national team faces expectations to perform from outside and from within but it's our own expectations that we focus on," said Okon.

"And we expect to go to the UAE and qualify for the semis."

Being able to use the bulk of this squad at the AFC Under-22 qualifiers in Indonesia in July and playing two away games against Portugal last month have given Okon's youngsters a solid preparation and a steely resolve for the task ahead.

We lost both games against the world's fourth-ranked Portugal but impressed in the 2-1 loss in the first match when we played with 10 men for the last half hour only to succumb to a goal well into time added.

The second game was no more



Young Socceroos head coach Paul Okon – confident and composed.

than a training hit-out with Okon making eight substitutions.

Okon was delighted with the display in the first match as the players had executed their game plan "to perfection" and had stretched their lauded opponent, especially in the first half when the Young Socceroos controlled the contest. "I'm confident that we have a strong enough squad to progress from the group stage to the quarter finals which will then come down to that one important game for us to perform in to qualify for the World Cup," said Okon.

"And I have a lot of faith in the squad. All the players are motivated and keen to do well. They're a hungry group of boys.

"I don't see a No 1 in my squad or a No 23. I see a full squad with every player capable of having an impact.

"Obviously some players are going to play more than others but given the match schedule I'd say that it would be physically impossible to play the same team in all three group games."

That last comment is a reference to the gruelling assignment of facing three opponents over five days in temperatures expected to range from 28 to 34 degrees Celsius.

"I'm confident that we have a strong enough squad to progress from the group stage to the quarter finals which will then come down to that one important game for us to perform in to qualify for the World Cup," said Okon.

We are in Group D and face Qatar in our opening match on Sunday (kick-off 10pm AEDT), followed by Syria on Tuesday (2am AEDT) and Saudi Arabia on Thursday (midnight, AEDT).

Our reconnaissance of our opponents has been extensive with videos of every Qatari, Syrian and Saudi qualifying game scrutinised methodically as well as their preparation games over the past few months.

"Our opponents are very good individually, technically sound and we know that it's going to be a battle from the first minute to the last," Okon continued.

"They have some key players that we are fully aware of and we will deal with them as a group. I don't use man markers. I hated to do that as a player and I don't ask my players to do that.

"We have a certain style, a certain way that we want to play and while we respect our opponents we will play to our strengths."

Okon's confidence is tempered with an understanding of the daily demands of national team coaching and although he has worked intensely with his group for the past five months he realises that hiccups do happen.

"One of the things I have learned

in my time with the national team is that you often have difficulties in planning as every day things change and it is a lot different to a club environment.

"Obviously it's difficult to predict anything with certainty because you don't know for sure how everyone will react under pressure and in the end it can all come down to a single decision and whether the player makes the right decision.

"Having said that I believe I have a number of players who are mature and play beyond their age.

"There are some boys there that haven't represented us before and they are really, really keen to get out there and do our country proud."

There are stark contrasts between Okon and Verbeek, not just in their assessment of the next generation of Socceroos.

Okon played for his country and did so with distinction and his coaching résumé does not include a burgeoning list of countries and clubs where no success ensued.

The irony in last week's ABC News website headline "Verbeek predicts bleak Socceroos future" is that Verbeek's Moroccan future ain't looking too rosy.

While the Dutchman is entitled to his opinion, as churlish as I believe it to be, he would be well advised to look over his shoulder rather than cast a distant glance in our direction.

He hasn't set the African football world alight since kicking off his stint as Moroccan national technical director after the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

The Moroccan Olympic team, with Verbeek in charge, made it to London but could only amass two points in three games as Japan and Honduras qualified from the group.

Verbeek may well be living off Morocco's last London result, a 0-0 draw against mighty Spain but given that the Spaniards bombed out so badly that they finished last in the group the result may not be all that it appears.

As we know there are few certainties in football but here's one – Morocco will not be among the 24 teams at the 2013 World Under-20 finals in Turkey, which will see 52 matches played in seven venues over 23 days starting on 21 June. The Moroccan youth team failed to reach the eight-nation African finals to be held in Algeria in March next year and Verbeek is the overlord of their youth program.

The best he can hope for now is to get a postcard from Turkey. Something along the lines of: "Having a great time. Wish you were here."

Maybe a successful national youth team coach called Okon will oblige and a group of fine young Australian footballers will chip in for the postage.

(Footnote: Thanks to Liverpool and Socceroo tragic Stuart McSweeney for engaging in the debate that spawned this column.)

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Jim Tansey; Extrovert defender and breaker of tradition

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Jim Tansey has been contributing to the game of football in Australia ever since he arrived here in 1974. He was born in Liverpool in 1953 and played for South Liverpool before coming to Melbourne. He was quickly picked up by Slavia, then a powerhouse in the Victorian State League where he played alongside Lou Ivanoff, Jim Campbell, Frank Campbell, Steve McCombe, John Howie, Tony Harris, Jim Train, Ian Humble, Bobby Kent, George Train. John Sanchez, who played in the 1960s and won the Argus medal for the competition's best and fairest, was coach of Slavia at that time. Jim Tansey won the Argus medal in 1976, the second Slavia player to do so. He did so despite Slavia finishing well down the ladder.

After three years with Slavia he joined Fitzroy United Alexander for the first season of the National Soccer League in 1977, when Jim Adam's team finished third behind Hakoah and Marconi as the best of the Victorians that year. Fitzroy became Heidelberg in 1978 and reached fourth spot and then second four points behind Marconi in 1979. In 1980 the Bergers were only a point adrift of Sydney City at the end of the home and away season, but demolished them in the grand final by four goals to nil, with Gary Cole scoring a hat-trick and Jamie Paton the other. The Heidelberg team for that match was Jeff Olver, Arthur McMillan, John Yzendoorn, Pat Bannon, Jim Tansey, Theo Selemidis, Jim Campbell, Jim Rooney (Ken Taylor 86), Gary Cole, Jamie Paton and Andy Bozikas. Len McKendry coached the side.

Jim Tansey's talent was obvious from the start and he was picked for Victoria against Bristol Rovers in 1974 and got his first cap for Australia against the Soviet Union in 1975. He played in three matches against the visitors. From then until 1981 he was a regular in the Socceroos line-up winning 42 caps in all, of which 19 were full internationals. Probably the highlights of his international career were the two matches



Jim Tansey displays a deft touch as fellow Soccerroo Alan Davidson and coach Les Sheinflug, look on in admiration. Photo: Les Shorrock Collection.



Who says it is a girl's game? Gary Cole and Jim Tansey sporting injuries. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

against England in 1980 and taking part in the World Cup qualifiers in 1981, though the results were not favourable in either campaign. He got the job of marking Glen Hoddle when the Socceroos took on England in Sydney, but was also expected to do overlapping runs down the wing! In addition to his Soccerroo honours, Jim Tansey appeared in

19 matches for Victoria, once as a substitute.

In his club career, Jim Tansey played with JUST and with Croydon City and in 1989 he coached Heidelberg United in the NSL for part of the season. Off the field he has been a representative of sports goods companies including Adidas. It was said, though never proved, that he was the



The uncompromising defender. Jim Tansey (right) in action for Heidelberg United against Footscray JUST at Olympic Park. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

man who got the Australians to wear gold socks rather than white ones in 1993. This storm in a sock drawer made a splash in the Sydney Morning Herald, when Adidas returned as supplier of the Socceroos apparel that year. Mind you the previous strip had been a disaster, aesthetically and to wear.

Though he was a fierce com-

petitor and totally committed on the field he had a scrupulous fairness in his approach to the game. I remember him playing against Bell Park not long after the idea of putting the ball out of play to allow an injured player to be treated had come into the game. The chivalrous thing was then to return the ball to the side which had put it out, which Tansey did. The locals

thought he had just given the ball away and chucked him for doing so. The expression on his face was priceless as a couple of supporters applauded his gesture. He has done a lot of good for the game, by stealth and by supporting good causes, and deserved his recognition in the Football Hall of Fame, not just for his playing performance.

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR



Pascoe Vale and Vic Vipers reach FOz Cup Final

Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC (6-0)

After last Wednesday's dramatic finale to the V-League qualifiers - where Brunswick, Moreland and Brighton were all victorious - it was back to FOz Cup action where the semi finals took place.

To kick start the proceedings, 2012 NIKE V-League Champions Pascoe Vale took on an in-form and very hungry Hume outfit. Labelled as a "potential final" both teams started the first half in a very safe and conservative manner as many would expect in such a high-stakes knockout competition.

The intention of both Pascoe Vale and Hume were easily identified as neither side gave an inch, aiming to maintain possession at all costs but it has to be said that Hume - as they had been all season - looked the more determined side with defensive duo Resit Culculoglu and Mehmet Parlak applying plenty of pressure off the ball and strikers Matty Vragovski and Vadim Mazurskiy were looking quite threatening.

But the strike pair were only limited to a handful of half chances, and it was Hume's inability to add scoreboard pressure that led to Pascoe Vale taking a 1-0 lead through new recruit Jose Portillo as he proved too strong for Mohammed Tankir, easily turning the Hume enforcer and blasting past keeper Carlos Monuz. Hume's intensity certainly took a dive after conceding, especially as they worked tirelessly to keep the league champions goalless for more than 16 minutes in the half!

After going into the game without captain and creator, Andre Caro, it seemed that Pascoe Vale were just lacking that killer blow to put their lower ranked opponents away. But the second period saw a much more one-sided affair as Pascoe Vale came out of the blocks firing on all cylinders after the re-start as Joao Da Silva became more of an influence on the game becoming quite a handful for the tiring Hume defence, setting up Ernie Simsek from a side ball and then scoring one for himself, completing a slick one-two with Portillo to make it 3-0.

From this point on Hume were at their wits end as to how to break through Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh's goal, but the Pascoe stopper was at his brilliant best - and you would expect no less from the 2012 keeper of the season - denying Vadim Mazurskiy on two occasions. Just as a win seemed ever more likely for Pascoe, Hume had all but lost interest in the game conceding three late goals from Simsek, Portillo - who both scored doubles - and Felipe Tadashi who scored his first goal for his new club! In the end it was a pretty run of the mill performance from the lads in black and white, and after lifting



Pascoe Vale Celebrated their V-League Premiership win pre kick off.



Vic Vipers Number 10 Ricardo Castro made an immediate impact off the bench opening the scoring and playing a pivotal role in the win over Balwyn.



Felipe Tadashi (Front) Celebrated his first goal for Pascoe Vale after waiting 10+ games he got it in one of the biggest clashes of the season to date.



Portillo opens the scoring for his new club Pascoe Vale in the 6-0 rout of Hume.

the V-League trophy for a third time, can the FOz Cup be just around the corner?

For Hume, their hopes of tasting some silverware are not over as they are to play Balwyn in the Semi's of the Clubs Cup on Friday night.

Vic Vipers FC vs FC Balwyn 3-2

After seeing arc rivals Pascoe Vale advance to the final of the FOz Cup for a 6th time in their history it was all down to the Vic Vipers & Balwyn to see who would progress to their 2nd final. The first half was all Vic Vipers with

plenty of chances to score but too many of them were off target and the ones that were on target were kept out by the magnificent Frano Saric.

If there was ever going to be a game changer it would be the Vipers newest superstar Ricardo Castro who came off the bench to score with his kick of the game. The 1-0 advantage was held all the way into the final 2 minutes for the Vipers until Balwyn sprung into action as Reardo Luka rounded Vipers shot stopper Christos Apostolakis to equalize at 1-1. Barely a minute had lapsed and the Bullets were in front courtesy of

a delightful chip from Robert Zadworny giving his side a 2-1 lead heading into the half time break.

The second half began much the same as the first with the Vipers holding possession as they so often do and waiting for an error in the Balwyn defense. Although it never looked like happening with rocks Ben Bodo & Tony Saric blocking everything the Vipers threw at them.

After the Vipers toiled away for 9 long minutes they were rewarded with their equalizer through inspirational skipper

Jonathan Barrientos after a brilliant ball by Kui Mu. The Vipers continued to pepper the goalmouth but it was becoming harder and harder to register a score with Balwyn seemingly playing for extra time. Everyone in the Stadium knew it would be a piece of brilliance to decide the tie and that's exactly what the Vipers provided a long ball from Juka Avdic landed straight on the head of Mirza Pedic who directed a header into the path of the oncoming Adam Cooper and he accordingly volleyed past Frano Saric to make it 3-2 with

7 minutes for Balwyn to respond.

The Bullets were pressing late on in the half and pushed players up field in order to get an equalizer and send the clash into extra time. But they were dealt a vital blow when shot stopper Frano Saric was sent off for a deliberate handball outside the area which reduced his side to 4 with 2 minutes 30 on the clock. For much of that time Balwyn spent it defending before being restored to order with 30 seconds remaining. In the dying second Reardo Luka had the chance of a lifetime to send it to extra time with the simplest of back post finishes which he pushed onto the bar and gave the Vic Vipers a birth into the final while Balwyn went home empty handed for a second straight season.

END OF SEASON AWARDS

Wednesday night also saw all of the 2012 V-League season awards presented, along with the State League and League One champions. Congratulations to all of those who received awards to cap off a brilliant season. The recipients were as follows:

V-League Champions: Pascoe Vale FC
Manager of the Season: Paul Vidic (PVFC)
M.V.P.: Resit Culculoglu (Hume)
Best and Fairest: Ben Bodo (Balwyn)
Top Goal Scorer: Sofiane Soufi (Ashburton)
Keeper of the Season: Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh (PVFC)
Young Player of the Season: Mark Saric (Balwyn)
Achievers Award: Amin Keddad (Hume)
State League Champions: Fitzroy FC
State League Top Scorer: Turhan Sumbul (Moreland)
League One Champions: FC Carlton
League One Top Scorer: Orien Humany (Geelong)

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East Germany



By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: East Germany (1949-1990)
CAPITAL: East Berlin
POPULATION: (1949-90 average approx.) 17,500,000
CONFEDERATION: UEFA
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Olympic gold-medalists 1976, silver 1980, joint-bronze 1972
HIGHEST-EVER FIFA WORLD RANKING: 6th (overall-placing at 1974 WC)
EURO APPEARANCES: N/A
WORLD CUP APPEARANCE: 1974

WHO WERE YA?

The German Democratic Republic/East Germany (also known by its German-language abbreviation DDR) was the Eastern bloc puppet-state established in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany following the defeat of the Nazis at World War II's end. Similar to what was happening with Korea on the other side of the world, the country had been partitioned between the victorious Allied powers (Americans, British, French and Soviets), but the ideological differences between capitalist West and the Soviets flared up to the point of non-cooperation; not least due to the USSR having suffered heavily as a result of Nazi invasion.

By the late 1940s, it was clear due to these differences that Germany would not regain her sovereignty as a solitary country, but one splintered into a capitalist Western state and a Marxist-Leninist satellite of the USSR; in 1949 the former (Federal Republic of Germany/ West Germany) and latter (East Germany) came into being within months of each other, but neither was to become fully-sovereign until 1954.

Whilst West Germany was a capitalist democracy and the self-styled legitimate homeland of the German people, the East was a repressive dictatorship ruled by the Socialist Unity Party(the result of a forced merger between the German Communists and the Social Democrat Party) but above all else



East German skipper Bernd Bransch(right) shakes hands with the Kaiser himself, Franz Beckenbauer, before the two Germanies' clash at the 1974 World Cup.

kowtowing to Moscow's party line. Initially the goal of eventual reunification was shared by the two Germanies (under each's own political system of course), but the East soon dropped this ambition to align itself with the rest of the Iron Curtain bloc, culminating in the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, fencing off the capitalist enclave of West Berlin from its East German surrounds. The Berlin Wall thus became the enduring symbol of ideologically-divided Europe and the Cold War as a whole.

WHAT DID YA DO?

Whilst West Germany went on to become one of the undisputed heavyweights of world football (with current/reunified Germany as the West's successor), the same could not be said of the East. Whilst this was mostly due to the State's emphasis on swimming, gymnastics, athletics and the like (as was the case throughout the Communist world), it is still something of a mystery given the game's popularity in the country.

Throughout its 41-year existence the East never qualified for the European Championship, and only qualified for the World Cup once - in 1974, hosted by the West. Drawn in the West's group alongside Chile and the WC-debutant Socceroos led by Peter Wilson, the DDR beat us 2-0 in a spirited display from both sides before drawing 1-all with Chile. That left the historic first-ever clash at senior level between the two Germanies for last, and given the West's stature and home-ground advantage to boot, the match was written off as mere formality.

Not even the party bigwigs back across the Wall would have seriously predicted the outcome though, for the East edged out

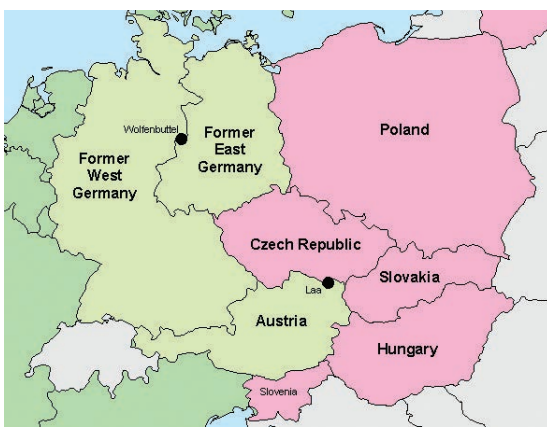
their Western counterparts 1-0 courtesy of a Jürgen Sparwasser goal in the 77th minute. Cue much propaganda mileage about the socialist fatherland having defeated the capitalist fat-cats, but a place in second-round Group A against Brazil, the Netherlands and Argentina. That was the end of the road as the DDR faltered 1-0 to Brazil and 2-0 to the Netherlands despite holding the Argentines to a 1-all draw and save the 1976 and 1980 Olympics where they romped to gold and silver medals respectively, the East never again featured in a major international tournament.

BIG CLUBS

As was common practice across the Communist bloc, East German players were professional in terms of their development and training, but as they received no salaries or monetary payment of any kind, they were theoretically amateurs. Clubs in the DDR were aligned to a local industry, such as the railroads, ironworks and the like, again in keeping with their Eastern bloc comrades.

Dynamo Berlin was the club of the dreaded Stasi secret police, Lokomotive Leipzig was the railworkers' club and Energie Cottbus was the club of the electrical company, among others. Other East German clubs included Dynamo Dresden, Energie Cottbus, Carl Zeiss Jena, 1.FC Magdeburg, Union Berlin and Hansa Rostock - in fact all of these clubs survived German reunification and still exist today, scattered throughout several levels of the German national-league pyramid.

It is fittingly ironic that the most-successful of these, Dynamo Berlin - with 10 DDR-Oberliga(national league) titles between 1979-88, runners-up 4 times and 3 cup wins/runners-up 6 times, as well as semi-



If GPS existed back then...

finalists in the 1972 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup - has had a Lance Armstrong-esque fall from grace in the years since, as post-reunification the club's Stasi patronage as well as the true nature of its title wins - brought about by biased refereeing if not bought outright - was made public. The fallen power has languished in the lower divisions ever since, currently gracing the NOFV-Oberliga Nord; equivalent to 5th-division for the Berlin region and Brandenburg/Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.

Post-reunification it is Dynamo Dresden(also semi-finalists in the 1989 UEFA Cup), Energie Cottbus, Union Berlin and Hansa Rostock that have established themselves as 2.Bundesliga(German 2nd. div.) mainstays, with their share of seasons in the top flight to boot. Moreover, Union Berlin (2001) and Energie Cottbus(1997) are the only ex-East German clubs to have reached the DFB-Pokal(German Cup) Final since reunification.

REP YOUR COLORS

The East German NT(jokingly nicknamed 'World Champions at Friendlies' due to their habit of performing better in non-competitive matches) wore the same template as their West German brethren, save substituting the West's black for navy-blue. The classic away strip was inverted colours, although in its last years of existence the DDR wore a purple and white away strip.

The colours of surviving ex-East German clubs have remained unchanged since, and are commonly-known to Bundesliga fans. Of the currently-obscure clubs though, Magdeburg wear blue shirts(with white sleeves) with white shorts and blue socks, Lok. Leipzig wear canary-yellow tops with blue shorts/yellow socks, CZ-Jena wear all-white whilst finally, the fallen Dynamo Berlin wear their once-iconic maroon(currently all

in that colour; traditionally their kit features white shorts) strip.

MATCHWINNERS

Jürgen Sparwasser was already one of the leading players in East German football when he scored the historic winner against West Germany at the 1974 World Cup, having joined Magdeburg in 1965 from his hometown club aged 17. Over the next 14 years the midfielder amassed 298 games and 133 goals for the club, as well as 49 caps and 14 goals for the DDR. He defected to the West in 1988, briefly embarking on a coaching career.

Joachim Streich('strike' in German, coincidentally!) was a goal-hungry striker who holds the DDR caps record with 102 internationals (and 55 goals). He too played for Magdeburg for a return of 237 games and 171 goals, despite starting his career at Hansa Rostock. After German reunification, he too embarked on a coaching career.

For most football fans the best-known DDR player would be Matthias Sammer, due to the second-wind that German reunification gave to his career. Though aged 23 in 1990 when Germany reunified, he'd already amassed 102 games for Dynamo Dresden and played 23 times for the East. Unlike most of his DDR-compatriots, whose careers simply faltered post-reunification Sammer's skyrocketed, playing a further 51 times for united Germany as well as for Stuttgart, Inter Milan and Borussia Dortmund, playing in World Cups and winning Euro '96, Bundesliga titles and the Champions League plus the World Club Cup along the way. After coaching stints at Borussia Dortmund and Stuttgart, he took over as Sporting Director at Bayern Munich in July this year. Thomas Doll and Ulf Kirsten were two other successful DDR/united-German dual-internationals, with

Doll also coaching Dortmund and Turkey's Gençlerbirliği post-playing career.

A sad chapter in the football relations between the Germanies was the death of midfield prodigy Lutz Eigendorf in 1983 aged 26. Eigendorf had started his career with Dynamo Berlin in 1974 and racked up 100 games in 5 years for them(despite this, he wasn't capped for his country until 1978); nicknamed 'The Beckenbauer of the East', it was clear from that description he was something special. The embarrassment his defection to the West in 1979 caused to the Stasi is all too imaginable, but few realistically suspected the Stasi would have been involved in Eigendorf's tragic death in a car crash - a large amount of alcohol was in his system, the autopsy claimed; given his career in the West had not kicked on as hoped, it was probable he had merely fallen victim to the material vices of Western living. Documents seized from the Stasi HQ post-reunification revealed the 'accident' had been deliberately staged by Western-based Stasi moles.

Finally, if the DDR still existed today we would almost certainly have Michael Ballack in this category; he was born in Görlitz in 1976 and began in the youth ranks of FC Karl Marx-Stadt(now Chemnitz FC), and even today he cites '80s-era Magdeburg player Dirk Stahmann as one of his childhood heroes.

IN THE END...

The East German state was little more than a house of cards held together by fear of authority, be it the domestic party or the Kremlin, and when Gorbachev's socio-economic reforms of perestroika/glasnost swept the Eastern bloc in the '80s, whatever legitimacy the DDR had in the eyes of its citizens was washed away, culminating in the historic opening of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. Within eleven months(October 1990), the DDR ceased to exist and the German nation was formally reunified after the final piece of politicking from the WWII-era Allies.

In football terms, the last decade of its existence was a barren one for the DDR, although it is worth noting that future Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange was national coach from 1983 to '88. It is also worth noting that a planned friendly between the two Germanies on the eve of reunification was scrapped(although the DDR did defeat Belgium 2-0 in a friendly that September)...thus DDR football, unlike the country itself, went out with a whimper instead of the bang of fireworks.

2013 NSW Football Fees Released

The Board of Football NSW has announced that player registration fees for 2013 will remain unchanged from the 2012 football season.

This illustrates Football NSW's ongoing commitment to ensuring football remains a more affordable sport. Along with the playing fees announcement, a 12 month Accident Support Program will once again follow on where footballers registered through MyFootballClub for winter football, who engage in sanctioned Futsal and Summer Football, will be automatically covered by the Accident Support Program. Student rates will be applied once more for 2013, with full time students over the age of 18 to be

given a 19% discount on the corresponding adult Football NSW capitation fees. In maintaining fees at 2012 rates, Football NSW is absorbing the standard increases associated with cost of living. All fees include Football Federations Australia's (FFA) MyFootballClub access – which enables participants to register for their local club online via the MyFootballClub website (www.myfootballclub.com.au). Football NSW CEO Eddie Moore was pleased that capitation fees were not increased for 2013 and was full of praise for the Board in following through with a key commitment made to the Football NSW membership during the review process.

“The cost of football remains a primary concern which the Football NSW Board and membership agreed needed to be addressed in a review of the 2012 football season. “Football gives players in Optus Small Sided Football programs right through to the Over 45's the opportunity to interact and train twice a week and play in a safe environment on the weekend throughout the winter months. “Football NSW will continue to work with all Clubs and Associations across the state to provide the necessary resources and support to continue to build the football family, increasing our investments in coach education, schools programs and broader game development programs.”

Club Competition Entry Fees				
Men's	Membership Fee	Promotional Levy	Referee Fees	Total
Premier League 1	\$8,510	\$19,180	\$9,500	\$37,190
Premier League 2	\$8,510	\$2,815	N/A	\$11,325
State League 1	\$5,572	\$1,435	N/A	\$7,007
State League 2	\$4,209	\$685	N/A	\$4,894
Women's				
Premier League	\$4,430	\$685	N/A	\$5,115
State League	\$2,470	\$685	N/A	\$3,155

What's HOT!!

The A-League season may only be four rounds old, but already there's been enough talking points and high drama to, well, occupy the rest of this fine paper! After two particularly-hurtful losses, the Victory got a win on the board against bitter foes Adelaide United before falling to an Emile Heskey brace vs. the Jets, and judging from its inaugural edition, the Sydney Derby between SydFC and WS Wanderers looks to become every bit a mainstay of the comp as its Melbourne counterpart. The marquee men Del Piero and Heskey have hit the ground running and shown beyond all doubt that they are not here for a holiday, and the fact their presence has lifted their teammates to stand up and be counted(case in point, Jets young gun Craig Goodwin's scene-stealing display back in Round 2 between his side and Sydney FC) only underlines the impact these two - and surely WSW's Shinji Ono will hit his straps in time, especially after their maiden win over the weekend - have already made on the league; even some of Heskey's fanbase back in the Old Dart are petitioning Roy Hodgson to bring him back to the Three Lions' fold apparently! Even if in jest it shows our A-League is getting noticed abroad, so what more is there to say but Bring On Round 5!



Jerónimo in name and nature? Neumann takes a tumble. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

What's NOT!!

told quick-smart that stuff doesn't fly in these parts. Luckily it isn't particularly endemic to domestic football in Australia, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be vigilant in making sure it doesn't become prevalent...

Jerónimo Neumann - did he dive or not? I guess the diplomatic answer is either 'you be the judge' or 'we don't play the game that way here'...for mine, yes I am miffed to see that happen in our game, and one would think that imported players here get

By Alvaro Rodriguez



Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

Marco Antonio scored with a header off a corner in the first half to lead Gremio to a 1-0 win over Millonarios of Colombia in the quarter finals of the Copa Sudamericana on Wednesday.

The Brazilian club can reach the semi finals of the South American competition with a draw in the second leg on Nov. 15 in Colombia.

Gremio, coached by Vanderlei Luxemburgo, controlled possession from the start and had most of the scoring chances at the Olímpico Stadium.

Marco Antonio easily scored from close range off a corner taken by World Cup veteran playmaker Ze Roberto in the 37th minute.

Gremio midfielder Leo Gago struck the post with a low shot in the 76th and striker Andre Lima had a goal disallowed because of offside in the 90th.

“EL SUPER CLÁSICO”

Walter Erviti scored close to full time Sunday to rescue a 2-2 draw for Boca Juniors against River Plate in the “Super clásico”, the seasonal showdown between Argentina’s two most famous clubs.

Erviti chipped the ball in from close range when River goalkeeper Marcelo Barovero misjudged another shot, giving the player an opening in added time.

Leonardo Ponzio scored after only 90 seconds and Rodrigo Mora added another in 70th minute as River Plate took a 2-0 lead. Santiago Silva scored for Boca with a 76th-minute penalty in front of a sell-out crowd at River’s Monumental stadium.

Boca is now seven points behind leader Newell’s Old Boys. River Plate is 10 off the pace.

“Thankfully, we were able to get an important point,” said Erviti, whose goal deflated the morale of 50,000 River fans.

There seemed to be no major incidents of violence after the match, although several Boca fans as they left the stadium were struck by objects apparently thrown by River fans.

The draw may do little to help Boca coach Julio César Falcioni and River counterpart Matías Almeyda.

Falcioni is still unpopular among many Boca fans, and River is always in danger of relegation after spending last season in the second division.

In late matches on Sunday, Belgrano defeated Unión 1-0, and Lanús downed Argentinos Juniors 1-0.

Ponzio scored from a 30 yard free kick that beat goalkeeper Agustín Orión. The free kick fooled Orión, who was late mov-

Spoils Shared in Superclásico; Gremio Eye Copa Semi



Happy birthday to Diego Armando Maradona as the Argentine great turns 52.

ing to his right and watched the ball bounce once and go into his net just inside the post.

River Plate was more threatening for the first 20 minutes with Frenchman David Trezeguet, playing in his first “Superclásico”, coming close in the 12th minute with a volley from a corner.

River was quicker recovering loose balls and played with more intensity in the first half, limiting Boca to few chances and little sustained possession.

Boca came out more aggressively in the second half, winning the ball in midfield and pressuring River.

Against the run of play, River made it 2-0 when Rodrigo Mora took a perfectly weighted pass and stepped around Orion to fire the ball in from a sharp angle.

“We leave with a bitter taste,” River player Carlos Sánchez said. “We did everything to leave with a victory.”

UNIQUE COPA AMERICA TOURNAMENT UNVEILED
A special 2016 Copa America tournament will be held in the United States to celebrate South America’s soccer governing body’s centenary.

CONMEBOL said Wednesday that the competition will invite teams across the Americas.

Ten teams will be from South America plus Mexico and competition will also see the United States join in and four teams from the CONCACAF, the federation for North and Central America and the Caribbean which will be decided from the Gold Cup..

The event is set for July and will take place between the 2015 and 2019 Copa America tournaments, CONMEBOL said.

CONMEBOL also announced that Japan and Mexico will be guest teams at the 2015 Copa

America in Chile.

AMERICA DEFEAT PUMAS IN MEXICAN DERBY

América defeated Pumas 1-0 in the Mexico City derby on Sunday to qualify for the play-offs with two rounds remaining in the Mexican Apertura football championship.

Tijuana, Toluca and Leon are also guaranteed a place in the post-season after the weekend results. Tijuana drew 1-1 with Morelia, Toluca lost 3-0 to Cruz Azul, while Leon defeated Jaguares 4-1.

In other weekend matches, Monterrey won 3-2 against Santos Laguna, Chivas overcame Atlas 2-0, Pachuca defeated Tigres 1-0, Atlante drew 1-1 against Puebla and San Luis and Querétaro drew 0-0.

Daniel Montenegro fired in the winner from 25 yards for América in the 26th minute.

Miguel Sabah scored from the penalty spot for Morelia against Tijuana, cancelling out Colombian Duvier Riascos’ 9th minute opener. The point was enough to move Tijuana into first position in the league table with Toluca losing.

Cruz Azul opened the scoring against Toluca through Gerado Flores, with Mexico international Javier Aquino adding the second in the 35th and Argentine Mariano Pavone sealing the victory in the 74th.

Second half goals from Hernán Burbano and Carlos Peña extended Leon’s lead against Jaguares.

Matías Britos got the first in the 5th and Luis Montes got the second in the 29th, two minutes after Luis Gabriel Rey had equalized for Jaguares with a penalty.

Both teams had players sent off in the first half, with José Vázquez shown a red card in the

13th minute for León and Jaguares’ Miguel Martínez leaving the field in the 20th.

An 85th minute goal from U.S. international Hérculez Gómez set up an intense finish to the game against Monterrey, but Santos Laguna couldn’t rescue a point.

Chile’s Humberto Suazo gave Monterrey the lead in the 12th, before Oribe Peralta equalized in the 41st.

Cesar Delgado put Monterrey back into the lead 10 minutes after halftime, with Aldo de Nigris extending it three minutes later.

Rafael Márquez Lugo headed in Chivas’ first goal in the 11th, with Marco Fabián scoring the second with a shot from 30 yards four minutes before halftime against Atlas in the Guadalajara derby. Pachuca stayed in playoff contention with a victory thanks to goal in the 51st from Raúl Meraz.

José Fonseca got an injury time winner for Atlante against Puebla.

Chilean international Esteban Paredes scored his ninth goal of the season in the 3rd, before Puebla equalized through Paraguay’s Herminio Miranda in the 65th.

Querétaro is yet to win a game this season, while San Luis is out of the playoff race.

ARGENTINA CALL-UP

Wigan Athletic striker Franco Di Santo was called up by Argentina for the first time on Tuesday for the friendly away to Saudi Arabia in two weeks time.

The 23-year-old former Chelsea and Blackburn Rovers forward, who has played for his country at under-20 level, has been in fine form this season scoring three Premier League goals.

Di Santo and recalled Newcastle United defender Fabricio Coloc-



Marco Antonio scores the winner for Gremio in midweek quarter final Copa Sudamericana action against Colombia’s Millonarios.

RICH LIST

The official Copa Libertadores website revealed a list last week of the top 20 players in the transfer market across Latin America.

- 1- Neymar -BRA- (Santos) - US \$40 million
- 2- Lucas Moura -BRA- (São Paulo) - \$35 million
- 3- Leandro Damiano -BRA- (Internacional) - \$25 million
- 4- Ganso -BRA- (Sao Paulo) - \$18 million
- 5- Christian Benítez -ECU- (América) - \$6 million
- 5- Marco Fabián -MEX- (Chivas) - \$ 6 million
- 5- Walter Montillo -ARG- (Cruzeiro) - \$6 million
- 5- Lisandro López -ARG- (Arsenal) - \$6 million
- 9- Franco Jara -ARG- (San Lorenzo) - \$5 million
- 10- Paolo Guerrero -PER- (Corinthians) - \$4 million
- 10- Manuel Lanzini -ARG- (River) - \$4 million
- 10- Humberto Suazo -CHI- (Monterrey) - \$4 million
- 10- Jorge Fucile -URU- (Santos) - \$4 million
- 14- Lucas Lobos -ARG- (Tigres) - \$3.5 million
- 14- Facundo Ferreyra -ARG- (Vélez) - \$3.5 million
- 14- Guillermo Burdisso -ARG- (Boca) - \$3.5 million
- 17- Julián Velázquez -ARG- (Independiente) - \$3.2 million
- 18- Jonathan Orozco -MEX- (Monterrey) - \$3 million
- 18- Aldo De Nigris -MEX- (Monterrey) - \$3 million
- 18- Oribe Peralta -MEX- (Santos Laguna) - \$3 million



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Pellegrino still finding his feet at Valencia

London Calling



By Samuel Collins

“Horror show.” That was how Valencia coach Mauricio Pellegrino described his side’s first-half display at Real Betis on Saturday.

Midfielder Salva Sevilla’s ninth-minute goal saw Los Che lose their second successive away league game 1-0. While Pepe Mel’s Béticos moved up to fourth in La Liga, Valencia linger in ninth-place after nine games. It’s still early, but Pellegrino’s men now sit five points off the top four, and seven points off the top three. After nine games in La Liga last season, Valencia had lost once. They had 18 points, and sat fourth. The 3-0 victory at BATE Borisov in mid-week, thanks to top-scorer Roberto Soldado’s hat-trick, was deemed the launch pad - “We must continue in this manner” Pellegrino said after the trip to Belarus. But a fourth league defeat of the campaign shows 41-year old Pellegrino, who replaced Unai Emery in the summer, is still finding his feet at the Mestella.

Valencianistas lost faith in Emery during last season. The Spanish tactician spent four years with Valencia, after joining the club from Almeria in 2008, but failed to lift any silverware during his tenure. Though, despite consistently losing his best players - David Villa, David Silva, Raul Albiol, Juan Mata - Emery still managed to finish third in three of his four seasons on the East coast



Mauricio Pellegrino

of Spain. No trophies, poor records against Barcelona or Real Madrid (one win in sixteen league games against the big two) and a habit of trying to defend leads rather than looking to add to one - which was costly on several occasions - meant club president Manuel Llorente appointed Pellegrino in May on a two-year contract.

Although no experience as a manager before this season, the 41-year old worked with Rafael Benitez at Liverpool and Inter Milan. He is also a Valencianista himself. The Argentine, a powerful centre-back, played for the club between 1999 and 2005. Two league titles and a UEFA Cup head Pellegrino’s CV. He also started both the 2000 and 2001 Champions League finals which Valencia lost to Real Madrid (3-0) and Bayern Munich (penalties).

Valencia spent £20m in the summer but they recouped £25m. As in

recent years, Los Che had focused on profit rather than expenditure. With the Nou Mestella - Valencia’s new 70,000-capacity, £240m arena - scheduled for completion in 2014, the club’s financial focus is understandably on their next home. With that in mind, Champions League revenue is somewhat imperative.

With seven months still remaining in the season, there will be no major concerns just yet, but as the winter arrives, a good run of results would certainly be most welcome. Pellegrino’s squad remains one of Spain’s most talented, despite the exit of Jordi Alba during the summer. Summer signings Fernando Gago, Aly Cissokho, Joao Pereira, Jonathan Viera and Andres Guardado have all settled well, whilst Ever Banega’s return from injury is a huge boost. Soldado (38 goals in 74 league games for Valencia) is clinical - despite his one-on-one miss

against Betis - whilst goalkeeper Diego Alves - regularly rotated with Guaita, to the disapproval of the Spanish press - is now Brazil’s number one, and is very impressive. Alves rates Pellegrino highly too - “He could be our Pep Guardiola” the 27-year old said in pre-season.

The comparisons between Valencia and Premier League side Arsenal on these shores, here in the UK, is quite common. Both teams sell their best players every summer. Both teams often recoup more than they spend, and both sides are financing with a new stadium in mind - of course, the gunners have already moved into their spectacular 60,000 Emirates Stadium in North London.

It doesn’t stop there, either. The spending power of other sides - think Real and Barca with regards to Valencia, and Chelsea and Manchester City when referring to Arsenal - has made it almost impossible for both clubs to reproduced their ‘glory’ days. Staying on the, quite spooky similarities topic, both Valencia and Arsenal last won their league titles in 2002 and 2004. Since then, 3rd and 4th places in their divisions, respectively, has been the best they’ve achieved.

There is one major difference, though. In Arsene Wenger, the gunners have had the same manager for 16 years, Pellegrino is the 13th different coach Valencia have hired during that time. Stability wouldn’t go a miss for the Spaniards.

In-form Atletico Madrid visit the Mestella next Saturday in one of the clashes of the weekend. A win against Diego Simeone’s men could prove to be a real turning point for Valencia and Pellegrino, rather than another red herring

League Cup wrap: Chelsea claim nine-goal thriller

Chelsea have exacted revenge on Manchester United courtesy of a 5-4 extra-time win in the League Cup, having trailed on three occasions.

For the second time in four days Chelsea and Manchester United played out a thriller at Stamford Bridge, with the hosts gaining some revenge for their 3-2 Premier League defeat by booking their spot in the quarter-finals of the League Cup. After the chaos of the weekend, it was perhaps little surprise that the first half was a frenetic affair, played at great pace, with goals, bookings, a penalty and the visitors from Manchester once again heading into the break 2-1 ahead.

Yet there was more than a hint of farce about United’s opening goal with Petr Cech’s short kick out to Romeu allowing Anderson to nick the ball off the Spaniard and find Ryan Giggs who finished clinically to open the scoring.

The goal sparked Chelsea into life, and by the half hour mark they were level.

The lively Victor Moses burst into the box only to be brought down by Alexander Buttner, giving the referee an easy decision to point to the spot and David Luiz made no mistake.

But Chelsea fell behind once again just minutes before the break with Anderson passing to Javier Hernandez and the Mexican finished smartly past Cech for his sixth goal in nine appearances against the Blues.

Just seven minutes into the second half, Mata’s corner was thundered home by Gary Cahill to make the score 2-2.

Nani gave Manchester United the

lead again in the 59th minute and Chelsea had to wait until the fourth minute of stoppage time and a penalty from Eden Hazard to equalise.

Chelsea struck twice in extra time through Daniel Sturridge and Ramires and although Giggs converted a 120th-minute penalty, the home team held on for victory.

In other League Cup results on Wednesday, Norwich struck twice in the last six minutes to defeat Tottenham 2-1, while Swansea gave former manager Brendan Rodgers a headache with a 3-1 win away to Liverpool.

Ulsan to meet Al Ahli in ACL final

South Korean side Ulsan Hyundai will entertain Saudi Arabian team Al Ahli in the final of the AFC Champions League.

Ulsan advanced to the decider after accounting for Uzbekistani outfit Bunyodkor 5-1 on aggregate.

Kim Ho-Gon’s men, who won 3-1 in Tashkent last week, secured their berth with a 2-0 victory in the second leg at Ulsan Munsu Football Stadium.

Second-half goals from Kim Shin-Wook and Lee Keun-Ho sealed the result, with Ulsan becoming the fourth K-League club in a row to reach the final.

The winner of the AFC Champions League final will take part in the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan in December with the likes of Chelsea, Corinthians, Monterrey and Auckland City.



Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

Croatia
The new president of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS), Davor Šuker, visited the House of European Football UEFA in Nyon.

The legendary former Croatia national-team striker, who was elected president of the Croatian football federation in July, met with UEFA President Michel Platini and held discussions with senior UEFA representatives on developments within Croatian football and on UEFA’s help to the HNS under its assistance programmes, including HatTrick and the women’s football development programme (WFDP). Šuker was accompanied by HNS executive president Damir Vrbancovic, head of international affairs and licensing Ivancica Sudac, and Zoran Cvrk, responsible for security and special projects

Davor Šuker, president of the Croatian football federation said “It’s an honour for me to come to UEFA as a footballer who is now president. I trained in Nyon with Real Madrid, and I’m now here for the first time at the headquarters. I’m glad to have this important

meeting for the Croatian Football Federation, and to work together with Michel Platini, because we care about football.”

The HNS renewed its membership of the world football body FIFA in July 1992 after the break-up of Yugoslavia, before joining UEFA in June 1993. Croatia’s national team, reached the EURO ‘96 quarter-finals in England on their major championship debut losing to the eventual winners Germany 2:1.

More notable success was to come at the 1998 FIFA World Cup. Croatia – for whom Šuker top-scored in the tournament with six goals – finished third, taking the Bronze following a 2:1 win over Holland and following the semi-final thriller against eventual France which they lost 2:1 after taking the lead through Šuker.

In a distinguished club career, Šuker also won a Spanish Liga title and the 1997/98 UEFA Champions League with Real Madrid CF. He enjoyed fine spells with home-town side NK Osijek, GNK Dinamo Zagreb where he was one of the most deadliest strikers in Yugoslav football at the time before joining Sevilla FC where he continued to find the back of the net, he went on to play for Arsenal FC, West Ham United FC and TSV 1860 München. Šuker has been involved with the HNS since 2010, and has been active in the work of the regional football bod-



Davor Šuker with the 1998 World Cup Golden Boot

ies, and has always been considered an ambassador for Croatian football – a role he will continue to assume as HNS president. Šuker said “We have talked about football in the long term, and the

development of the association, the leagues, the competitions,” the 44-year-old added of today’s meeting. “We will do all we can, especially to help young Croats who like football. We are

happy to be part of UEFA and to be able to take part in its projects – HatTrick, grassroots – to help develop football in Croatia.” The next big target for Croatia is for the senior team to reach the World Cup finals in Brazil in 2014. “We are also to build a national training centre next year with UEFA’s help,” Šuker explained, “as well as four regional centres in Croatia.”

Croatia’s footballers have excelled through the decades. Bernard Vukas, Vladimir Beara, Zlatko Cajkovski and Branko Zebec were in a FIFA representative side that played a commemorative international in London in 1953; Dražan Jerkovic was joint-top scorer at the 1962 World Cup before Šuker’s own feat in 1998. Robert Prosinecki was the best player at the 1987 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Chile and the Best Young Player at the 1990 World Cup in Italy while Šuker was voted as Croatia’s Golden Player to mark UEFA’s 50-year jubilee in 2004. Now, at the helm of his country’s association, he is now determined to continue the success of Croatian football into the future.

There was a huge upset in the Croatian Cup as Dinamo Zagreb were knocked out at the ‘Maksimir’ by Zadar despite leading by two goals going into the break. Beqiraj and Cop scored in the 42nd and 45th minute and it was certain the league leaders would book a spot in the next

stage but super sub 17 year old Perica came on and scored in the 82nd and 86th minute to send the match into extra time where Ivanovic netted the winner for Zadar to cause a major shock. Meanwhile, Hajduk once again overcame city rivals Split with a 2:1 win to book a spot in the next stage.

Serbia
Partizan Belgrade has been knocked out of the Serbian Cup in The Round of 16 following a 2:1 loss at home to second division Borac Cacak. The Serbian league leaders and four time consecutive league winners were down 2:0 after 20 minutes as Maslac and Jevtovic scored for the visitors whoever only ten minutes later Partizan pulled one back through Askovski but it wasn’t enough as the second division side held on to cause a huge shock and knock out the highly fancied Partizan. Red Star was too good for Hajduk with a 2:0 win and are the firm favourites to win the trophy once more.

In Round 11 of the Serbian Superliga, Red Star takes on third placed Jagodina in the derby match of the round while Partizan will look to bounce back from the midweek Cup exist when they make the trip to Nis to take on ninth placed Radnicki.

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EPL
Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

Clattenburg Crisis

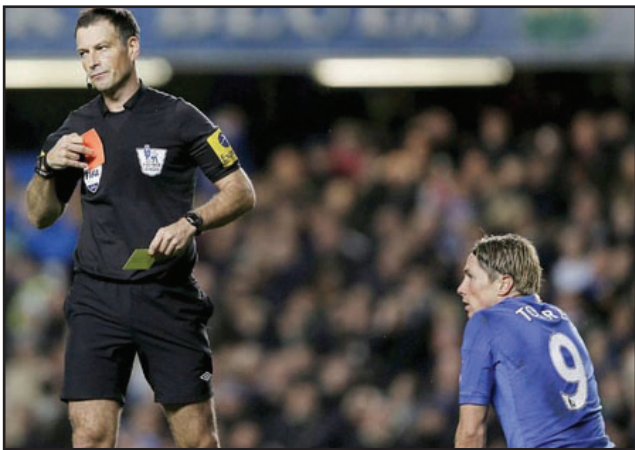
It seems the Premier League can't go one week without any sort of controversy exploding out of a round of fixtures. This week, one of the best games of the season, Chelsea versus Manchester United was played.

The Red Devils snatched a late winner, yet while the game was filled with contentious decisions made by referee Mark Clattenburg (Torres' second yellow – did he dive or was he tripped? – and Javier Hernandez's offside goal) it will be remembered for its aftermath.

Chelsea had officially lodged a complaint to the Football Association, indicating that Clattenburg has racially abused to two Chelsea players during the game. Since the investigate opened, it has been claimed that Clattenburg told Chelsea's Nigerian midfielder, John Obi Mikel to "Shut up you Monkey" and called Spain midfielder Juan Mata, a "Spanish tart".

The fall-out has been explosive to say the least. Racism issues seem to have engulfed the Premier League following the John Terry and Luis Suarez charges and the "Kick It Out" boycott.

Clattenburg is adamant that he did nothing wrong and is ready to defend himself and clear his innocent. The Professional Game Match Officials organisation (the body of Premier League referees) confirmed that Clattenburg will



Referee Mark Clattenburg makes a clanger dishes out the red card to Chelsea's Fernando Torres.

not officiate any games this weekend, highlighting "the intense level of scrutiny would detract from the match" if he were to umpire.

If Clattenburg is charged and found guilty, it would definitely be career ending. But that's the least of his problems. Metropolitan Police have also launched an investigation into the allegations, however Chelsea is yet to talk to police about what has occurred.

Graham Poll, a former Premier League referee, is adamant that Clattenburg cannot hide away especially since all match officials wear microphones during the games to communicate with each other. And while the conversations are not recorded, Poll believes that the "assistant referees, if they have heard Clattenburg make inappropriate comments, they will report it."

It goes without saying that it might be difficult for a referee to "dob in" another official without some scrutiny from its own organisation. Yet, the FA is set to interview the two linesmen, Michael McDonough, Simon Long, and fourth official Michael Jones during the enquiry. As well as both Chelsea players involved in the incident.


Speaking of Chelsea, this isn't the

first time that referees have been in their firing line. In 2005 Swede Anders Frisk quit the game following death threats from fans, following a feud with then coach Jose Mourinho. The "Special One" accused Frisk of speaking to Barcelona manager Frank Rijkaard at half time during a Champions League match and being influenced to make decisions against Chelsea in the second half, resulting in a 2-1 defeat.

In 2006, after getting red carded for a harsh tackle and sparking a melee against Tottenham, captain John Terry alleged that Graham Poll (yes, the same former referee) used "inappropriate language" when he was sent off. Nothing materialised, as Chelsea backed down and Terry as fined for his accusations. Meanwhile Poll, retired after a lack of support from the FA.

Both incidents followed games in which Chelsea were defeated. Could this be another case of bitter pills? Is Chelsea pushing forward with their crusade as payback for Clattenburg's poor decisions? Possibly. But this time Chelsea cannot afford to get this one wrong.

ENGLAND EPL



Last 5 games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Chelsea	9	7	1	1	21	9	+12	22	L W W W W
2 Manchester United	9	7	0	2	24	13	+11	21	W W W L W
3 Manchester City	9	6	3	0	18	9	+9	21	W W W W D
4 Tottenham Hotspur	9	5	2	2	17	13	+4	17	W L W W W
5 Everton	9	4	4	1	17	11	+6	16	D D D W W
6 Arsenal	9	4	3	2	14	6	+8	15	W L W L D
7 Fulham	9	4	2	3	19	14	+5	14	D W D L W
8 West Bromwich ...	9	4	2	3	13	11	+2	14	L L W D W
9 West Ham United	9	4	2	3	13	11	+2	14	L W L W D
10 Newcastle United	9	3	4	2	11	13	-2	13	W D L D W
11 Swansea City	9	3	2	4	14	13	+1	11	L W D L L
12 Liverpool	9	2	4	3	12	14	-2	10	D W D W L
13 Stoke City	9	1	6	2	8	9	-1	9	D L D W L
14 Sunderland	8	1	6	1	6	8	-2	9	D D L W D
15 Wigan Athletic	9	2	2	5	10	16	-6	8	W L D L L
16 Norwich City	9	1	4	4	7	18	-11	7	D W L L L
17 Aston Villa	9	1	3	5	7	14	-7	6	D L D L D
18 Reading	8	0	4	4	11	17	-6	4	D L D D L
19 Southampton	9	1	1	7	14	26	-12	4	L L D L W
20 QPR	9	0	3	6	7	18	-11	3	D L L L L

EPL Preview
While this is going on, there are another round of fixtures upon us this weekend. And once again, Manchester United will be in the headlines, as they welcome Arsenal to Old Trafford.

This match has lost its vigour since the days of Roy Keane and Patrick Viera. Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger have settled down after years of barbs and mind games. This is due to the arrival of other forces in the Premier League: rich-super clubs Manchester City and Chelsea.

It also highlights the decline of Arsenal. Once a powerhouse of English football, the Gunners are stuck on the platform "good enough for a pretender, but not a contender". As such, Sir Alex sees Arsenal no longer a threat to their dominance of the game. The transfer of Robin Van Persie to the Red Devils can best highlight the gap between the two clubs: an incident that would never have happened in the past.

Arsenal's arrival at Old Trafford will bring back some bad memories, especially after last season's 8-2 trouncing. But that was a different time and place for the Gunners.

They have regrouped this season and despite some poor performances over the last fortnight (the 1-0 loss to Norwich and the 2-0 lost to German team Schalke 04) they are slowly getting over the loss of their talisman Dutchman Van Persie.

Wenger's decision has been to offer the Gunners different outlets to score, as well as encouraging the team to make the next step up and stop the reliance on a one player. It happened when legend Thierry Henry left in 2007. Many tip the Gunners to not even to make the Champions League, but they pushed Chelsea and Manchester United all the way to the end of the season and finished third, a mere four points off the top.

The plan is to do it again this season, however it might take a little longer with new recruits, Oliver Giroud and Lukas Podolski yet to settle in. Santi Cazorla looks like he's being playing for the Gunners for years, but its time for other members to step up to the plate.

As for Manchester United, this season is been all about defensive problems. The Red Devils have conceded two goals in their last three games and already let in 13

Latest Results	This Week
Aston Villa 1 - 1 Norwich City	Man Utd v Arsenal
Arsenal 1 - 0 QPR	Fulham v Everton
Reading 3 - 3 Fulham	Norwich City v Stoke City
Stoke City 0 - 0 Sunderland	Sunderland v Aston Villa
Wigan Athletic 2 - 1 West Ham	Swansea City v Chelsea
Man City 1 - 0 Swansea City	Tottenham Hotspur v Wigan
Everton 2 - 2 Liverpool	West Ham v Man City
Newcastle U 2 - 1 WBA	QPR v Reading
Southampton 1 - 2 Tottenham	Liverpool v Newcastle U
Chelsea 2 - 3 Man Utd	WBA v Southampton

One To Watch This Weekend...

Chelsea will be looking to bounce back from their first loss of the season with an away tie to Swansea. With two teams, who like to play fast flowing ad attacking football expect plenty of goals. Will Chelsea get back on the winners list or will Swansea continue their good start to the season?

goals in this campaign alone. There are a number of problems that can be attributed to this. The constant rotation of keepers between David De Gea and Anders Lindegaard; the loss of United's best defender Nemanja Vidic and the poor performances of wingers Patrice Evra and Rafael, who while they offer an outlet going forward are poor in covering the space they leave behind.

The only positive is United's attacking line up. Regardless, if its Van Persie, Hernandez, Wayne Rooney or Danny Welbeck, United have plenty of options up front. On any given day, one of these four sparkling forwards are bound to score. The problem is one day, the day will come (and it has already arrived twice for United season) when it won't be enough for them and United will drop points.

Elsewhere, Manchester City will fly to London to take on Sam Allardyce's West Ham outfit, who are looking every bit a like a Premier League team after coming up from the Championship.

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

Over the past 10 years the Barclays Premier League has become renowned as the best division in the world.

Famed for its fast tempo, crunching challenges and entertaining style of play it has become a league where any team can beat anyone on any given day.

This competitiveness sparked not only the arrival of some of the greatest players of modern time but also made English clubs amongst the most feared in Europe.

In the past eight years sides from England have only failed to reach the final once (2009-2010) and in those years have had three winners: Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Although not the most successful in claiming the final prize of the Champions League trophy, that award goes to Spain who have four titles, the repeated achievement of English representatives reaching the final highlights just how strong the Premier League truly is.

However, despite Chelsea claiming the trophy last year it was the first indication that clubs from England may not be the force

they once were in Europe.

Both Manchester clubs were knocked out in the group stages and Arsenal were beaten by AC Milan in the first knockout stages, leaving only Chelsea to fly the flag.

What Roberto Di Matteo's men went on to do was incredible, showing immense defensive solidarity which was the foundation that ultimately led them to winning the greatest prize in club football.

This year however the potential for a final without an English club seems to have grown with all four teams looking a distance behind Europe's elite.

Undoubtedly the standards have been raised by Real Madrid and Barcelona and it is now clear that the performances those two clubs can produce far out weigh what Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and United can deliver at this present moment.

The group stages have confirmed this, with Manchester City struggling to get out of the first stage of the competition once again. The Citizens have only managed one point from their first three games and now need to win their remaining matches against Ajax, Real Madrid and Dortmund if they are to progress, something when you consider their current form looks highly unlikely.

Most of City's problems are in defence where boss Roberto Mancini seems to be undecided over whether to go with three or four at the back.

This indecision has on numerous occasions caused panic and



Manchester City's European aspirations appear down and out after a 3-1 away defeat to Ajax.

confusion, with players clearly unsure of their role in an alien back three.

It has got to the point where there is visible unrest in the camp with Micah Richards questioning Mancini's methods after their shock defeat to Ajax.

"It is something that we have not worked on very much and it is the second time we have conceded after going to a back three." He said.

"We are happy just to play, but I think the players prefer a back four."

Across Manchester, Sir Alex Ferguson's men have fared better than their rivals, albeit in a much easier group, but what is worrying for them is the way they have gone behind in two out of three of

their games.

Ferguson has selected stronger sides this time round, after last years embarrassing exit, but the Red Devils have made a habit of going behind, which when they come across stronger opposition will not be as easy to recover from.

What is positive for United, and something they will need to maintain if they are to reach the latter stages, is the regularity in which they are finding the back of the net.

In Europe they have deployed Wayne Rooney at the point of a diamond, allowing him to drop deep to influence the play which has enabled Robin Van Perise and Javier Hernandez, or Danny Welbeck, to fire the reds to three out

of three victories.

Continuing the trend of under performing English sides are Arsenal.

The Gunners lost their first match in Europe at the Emirates against Schalke 04 in their latest group game in a match they showed little sign of winning. Arsene Wegner's troops looked far from impressive that evening, with their attacking threat minimised by the miserly German defence who gave them very little all night.

There was more worrying news for the men from London, with their own back line looking far more open and exposed than it was at the start of the Premier League campaign.

Under new assistant boss Steve

Bould they had delivered performances of far greater quality at the back this year with many believing they had shaken off their 'fragile' tag.

However, as the season has developed soft goals have been leaked with more regularity which cost them dearly against Schalke.

Finally the holders Chelsea, who also lost their last European fixture and face a battle to proceed into the knockout stages.

The Blues, who drew with Juventus and lost to Shakhtar, are now in a position where they cannot afford any more slip ups if they want to retain their trophy.

Despite two disappointing results there have been glimpses that Di Matteo's men can get to the latter stages, with Eden Hazard, Juan Mata and Oscar providing the perfect launch from which to counter attack from, a valuable commodity, especially in Europe.

With three games left for all the English sides there is still a lot to play for, but don't expect all to escape their groups.

Manchester United and Arsenal should both qualify comfortably, mainly due to the strength of the opposition they face, but Chelsea and Manchester City face more of an uphill battle.

The holders still have their hopes in their own hands so would back themselves to progress but City will need a miracle if they are to avoid an early exit from the most illustrious club competition in the world once again.



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Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

Controversy and drama reign supreme

An action-packed Serie A schedule saw Juventus remain first, as Inter leads the chasing pack. The weekend's matches were overshadowed by a number of officiating errors.

It wouldn't be a Serie A weekend without controversy would it? Round 9 had incidents in abundance. The most talked about occurred in Catania, with Juventus the beneficiary.

The hosts thought they had taken the lead when Giovanni Marchese's cross nicked both Nicola Spolli and Francesco Lodi on its way through to Gonzalo Bergessio at the back post. The Argentine converted and Catania celebrated. Yet 45 seconds after scoring the referee, acting on his assistant's word, signalled offside. Replays show Bergessio was clearly inside when both Spolli and Lodi helped it through.

Catania were furious and President Antonino Pulvirenti was sent off from the bench. The Rossoblu felt aggrieved again in the second half as a marginally offside Nicklas Bendtner was played through by Mirko Vucinic. The Dane's shot was saved, but Arturo Vidal scored a simple tap-in for the only goal of the game.



Inter Milan have won their eighth-straight match in all competitions, knocking off Sampdoria 3-2 despite going behind in the first half.

For Pulvirenti, the Juve bench had a hand in disallowing the goal. "The linesman had given Bergessio's goal, then disallowed it after the protests from the Juventus bench." There was even a suggestion the linesman had a Facebook profile showing he supports Juve, but this was quickly dismissed as just a fan page.

There were incidents galore as Fiorentina defeated Lazio 2-0. Mati Fernandez missed an early penalty, but Adem Ljajic put the hosts ahead with a screamer. Lazio were then deprived an equaliser by the linesman, with Stefano Mauri undoubtedly onside when he connected with a cross. The Viola felt they deserved another penalty as Lazio lost the plot late on to go down to nine men. Luca Toni's acrobatic finish then sealed the points. Milan got the win they desperately needed at home versus Genoa. In what was Luigi Delneri's debut on the Rossoblu bench, the

hosts scored the only goal with 15 minutes remaining. Stephan El Shaarawy knocked home an Ignazio Abate cross. However, the fullback received the ball in an off-side position.

Roma could feel hard done by as a soft late penalty went against them at home to Udinese. Nonetheless, the Giallorossi capitulated by squandering an early two goal lead to lose 3-2. Antonio Di Natale converted what was a dubious penalty award. Meanwhile, Napoli wasted ample chances against Chievo – who may have had a penalty of their own – before Marek Hamsik calmed nerves to net the only goal.

Elsewhere, Inter were solid again as they defeated Bologna 3-1 away from home. Torino felt hard done by when Gianluca Sansone received a second yellow card late in the first half for a debateable diving decision. Parma would cruise to a 3-1 win.

ITALY

Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Juventus	10	9	1	0	22	5	+17	28	W W W W W
2 Internazionale	10	8	0	2	19	9	+10	24	W W W W W
3 Napoli	10	7	1	2	15	6	+9	22	L W L W W
4 Lazio	10	6	1	3	16	11	+5	19	D L W W W
5 Fiorentina	9	4	3	2	11	7	+4	15	W D W L D
6 Parma	10	4	3	3	14	14	+0	15	W W W L D
7 Roma	10	4	2	4	22	19	+3	14	L L W W L
8 Cagliari	10	4	2	4	10	13	-3	14	W W W W L
9 Udinese	10	3	4	3	13	15	-2	13	D W W L D
10 Catania	10	3	3	4	11	16	-5	12	D L L W L
11 Atalanta	10	4	2	4	8	12	-4	12	W D W L L
12 Milan	10	3	2	5	12	12	+0	11	D W L L D
13 Chievo	10	3	1	6	9	16	-7	10	W L D W L
14 Torino	10	2	5	3	11	9	+2	10	D L D L W
15 Sampdoria	10	3	2	5	12	14	-2	10	L L L L L
16 Genoa	9	2	3	4	10	13	-3	9	L L D D D
17 Pescara	10	2	2	6	6	17	-11	8	L D L L W
18 Palermo	10	1	5	4	8	13	-5	8	D D D D W
19 Bologna	10	2	1	7	11	16	-5	7	L L L L W
20 Siena	10	2	3	5	11	14	-3	3	L D L L L

The midweek round saw its fair share of drama without much of the weekend storm. Inter found themselves a goal down to struggling Sampdoria, but when the visitors were reduced to ten men and Antonio Cassano equalised from the spot, the Nerazzurri took control. They eventually ran out 3-2 winners as Rodrigo Palacio and Fredy Guarin also netted.

Juventus were made to wait until injury time to claim a home 2-1 win over Bologna. Paul Pogba's first half header was wrongly disallowed, but Fabio Quagliarella opened the scoring for the League leaders after the interval. A defensive error allowed Bologna back into the contest, but Pogba glanced in the late winner.

There was to be a late comeback from Milan, who recovered a two-goal deficit to claim a point at Palermo. Riccardo Montolivo and El Shaarawy were on target inside the final 20 minutes, although owner Silvio Berlusconi was angry after

the match with the performance and tactical tinkering of Massimiliano Allegri.

Roma slumped to another 3-2 defeat, this time at Parma, adding more pressure on Zdenek Zeman. Cross-town rivals Lazio rescued a point versus Torino as Mauri found the target. Meanwhile, Napoli were without Edinson Cavani for the second straight contest and again struggled. This time they could not respond to an early Carlos Carmona strike as Atalanta claimed a lone-goal success.

Round 11 is headlined by the Derby d'Italia. Five straight wins for Juventus versus six consecutive Inter triumphs. First hosting second. Saturday's showdown between the bitter rivals has more than just pride on the line. Unbeaten streaks and a four point gap means this match is vital. Baited by the Sunday controversy involving the Bianconeri, Inter representatives would play down the incidents, but the bad feeling between

the clubs does not die easy. Vidal returns from suspension for the Turin side.

Milan and Napoli will look to return to the winners list as they host Chievo and Torino respectively. There is still huge pressure on Allegri's shoulders and anything less than three points could be critical, especially after Berlusconi's outburst. Napoli will be hoping to regain their talismanic Uruguayan striker as they attempt to rediscover the swagger of recent weeks.

Lazio have a difficult assignment away at Catania, while Roma must return to winning ways at home to Palermo. Fiorentina – who faced Genoa on Thursday night – host in-form Cagliari. The end could be near for Giovanni Stroppa at Pescara should his side fail against Parma, while Sampdoria and Bologna look to turn around the disappointment of their midweek losses versus Atalanta and Udinese. Finally, Siena entertains Genoa.



Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

For the second season in succession, The FIFA Ballon d'Or award nominations have been flooded by Spanish candidates and players currently applying their trade in the Spanish La Liga. Of the 23 players nominated for the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2011 best player award, 7 players are of Spanish nationality, 12 in total currently play for a Spanish football club.

Furthermore, of the 10 nominations for the FIFA World Football Coach of the year award, two nominations are Spanish, Vicente Del Bosque (Spanish National Coach) and Pep Guardiola (Barcelona FC Coach), and a third coach currently coaches current La Liga Champions Real Madrid, Jose Mourinho.

The current FIFA Ballon d'Or Award winner, Barcelona FC's Lionel Messi will again be the odds on favourite to take out his third consecutive FIFA Ballon d'Or award. The award is given each to the player who is considered to have performed the best in the previous season. Votes by coach-



Vicente Del Bosque may well add to his recent haul of silverware with a nomination for the 2012 FIFA coach of the year award.

es and captains of international teams, as well as journalists from around the world, determine who is the winner.

Speaking with Spanish Newspaper Marca, Leo Messi revealed his thoughts on the award; "Do I think about it? No! When the time comes, it may be different... I've been fortunate to receive the award three times, it's massive, unbelievable. But I'm going to come to a year where I will not win it.

I do not know who is on the shortlist. I will vote for Xavi, Andres and definitely one of my countrymen. I think it could be

Casillas' Ballon d'Or, he is one of the best goalkeepers in the world, and also Cristiano. When something happens, the press look to compare us. We are rivals on the field, nothing more. They look around ourselves to compete. It's tiring me a bit,"

Dark horse nomination Colombian and Atletico Madrid striker Radamel Falcao was also asked for his opinion on who may win the top awards; "That's a tough question! I think there are several players who have done a lot this season to deserve it, thanks to their achievements with both

SPAIN

La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first				
1 Barcelona	9	8	1	0	29	11	+18	25	W	W	D	W	W
2 Atlético Madrid	9	8	1	0	22	9	+13	25	W	W	W	W	W
3 Málaga	9	5	3	1	13	5	+8	18	D	W	L	W	D
4 Real Madrid	9	5	2	2	21	7	+14	17	W	W	D	W	W
5 Real Betis	9	5	1	3	13	13	+0	16	W	D	W	L	L
6 Levante	9	5	1	3	12	14	-2	16	W	W	W	L	W
7 Sevilla	9	4	2	3	12	11	+1	14	L	W	L	L	W
8 Getafe	9	4	1	4	10	12	-2	13	W	L	W	W	L
9 Real Zaragoza	9	4	0	5	9	11	-2	12	W	W	L	L	W
10 Real Valladolid	9	3	2	4	14	11	+3	11	D	L	D	W	L
11 Valencia	9	3	2	4	11	12	-1	11	L	W	L	W	L
12 Mallorca	9	3	2	4	10	14	-4	11	L	L	L	L	W
13 Celta de Vigo	9	3	1	5	10	11	-1	10	D	L	W	L	W
14 Real Sociedad	9	3	1	5	10	14	-4	10	D	L	L	W	L
15 Rayo Vallecano	9	3	1	5	11	22	-11	10	L	L	W	L	L
16 Athletic Club	9	2	2	5	12	19	-7	8	L	L	W	L	D
17 Granada	9	2	2	5	8	15	-7	8	L	L	W	W	L
18 Deportivo La C...	9	1	4	4	14	20	-6	7	D	L	L	L	L
19 Espanyol	9	1	3	5	11	15	-4	6	D	W	D	L	L
20 Osasuna	9	1	2	6	8	14	-6	5	D	L	D	W	L

their clubs and national sides. It could be Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo or Andres Iniesta. They are some of the players who have stood out in the past season." The FIFA Ballon d'Or award winners will be announced in Zurich, Switzerland on the 7th of January 2013.

Meanwhile in Spanish La Liga race, Arch Rivals Barcelona FC and Real Madrid both ironically scored 5-0 away victories over the past weekend. Barcelona finished off Rayo Vallecano from Madrid, whilst Real Madrid put away islanders Real Mallorca. Both Messi and Ronaldo scored

doubles for their respective clubs in the routes with Messi leading the La Liga goal scorers table with 13 goals and Ronaldo on 11. Close behind is Radamel Falcao with 10 goals, Falcao managed to score one in Atletico Madrid's 3-1 home win over Osasuna, and stay level on points at the top of La Liga with Barcelona FC.

Barcelona former assistant come coach Tito Vilanova was full of praise for his star 3 time FIFA Ballon d'Or award winner; "I like Messi's goals, but what I like most is that in the 89th minute, he made a sprint of 40 metres back to help defend a corner."

Whilst many are surprised with Atletico Madrid's current title challenge, the players at Atletico are attempting to keep their ambitions this season realistic. Atleti goal keeper Thibaut Courtois also speaking with Spanish Newspaper Marca; "At the moment, we are joint leaders with Barcelona. I believe that Real Madrid and Barcelona always fight for the title. We go from game to game, and the objective is the Champions League. If we are able to play for the championship title it would be good, but the priority is to be in the Champions League."



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CROATIA

1.HNL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Dinamo Zagreb	13	10	2	1	30	11	+19	32	W W W W L
2 Slaven Koprivnica	13	7	2	4	22	20	+2	23	D W L D L
3 Hajduk Split	13	6	3	4	21	13	+8	21	W L W L W
4 Osijek	13	5	6	2	16	9	+7	21	L W D W W
5 Rijeka	13	6	3	4	20	18	+2	21	W L W L W
6 Split	13	6	2	5	20	16	+4	20	L W D D L
7 Lokomotiva	13	5	4	4	19	17	+2	19	L D W D W
8 Istra 1961	13	4	4	5	10	12	-2	16	D W L L L
9 Inter Zaprešić	13	3	5	5	17	19	-2	14	W L D D W
10 Cibalia	13	3	2	8	12	21	-9	11	L L L W L
11 Zagreb	13	2	3	8	8	26	-18	9	W D D L W
12 Zadar	13	1	4	8	13	26	-13	7	L L L W L

GERMANY


Bundesliga



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Bayern München	9	8	0	1	27	4	+23	24	LW WWW
2 Schalke 04	9	6	2	1	18	8	+10	20	W W W D W
3 Eintracht Fran...	9	6	1	2	20	13	+7	19	L W L W D
4 Borussia Dortmund	9	4	3	2	20	11	+9	15	L W D W D
5 Bayer Leverkusen	9	4	3	2	15	12	+3	15	W D D W W
6 Mainz 05	9	4	2	3	12	10	+2	14	W D W W L
7 Hamburger SV	9	4	1	4	11	11	+0	13	L W W W D
8 Stuttgart	9	3	3	3	10	15	-5	12	W D W D L
9 Borussia M'gla...	9	3	3	3	12	18	-6	12	W L W L D
10 Hannover 96	9	3	2	4	18	16	+2	11	L L D L W
11 Werder Bremen	9	3	2	4	15	14	+1	11	D W L L W
12 Freiburg	9	3	2	4	13	12	+1	11	L W W L L
13 Fortuna Düsseldorf	9	2	4	3	7	12	-5	10	L L L W D
14 Hoffenheim	9	2	2	5	13	20	-7	8	L D L D W
15 Nürnberg	9	2	2	5	7	15	-8	8	L D L L L
16 Wolfsburg	9	2	2	5	6	16	-10	8	W L L L L
17 Augsburg	9	1	3	5	5	13	-8	6	L D W D L
18 Greuther Fürth	9	1	3	5	6	15	-9	6	D L L L L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Cardiff City	13	9	1	3	26	15	+11	28	W W L W W
2 Leicester City	13	8	1	4	20	12	+8	25	L W D W W
3 Middlesbrough	13	8	1	4	21	18	+3	25	W W W W D
4 Crystal Palace	13	7	3	3	23	21	+2	24	W D D W W
5 Blackburn Rovers	13	6	5	2	19	14	+5	23	W W D L D
6 Hull City	13	7	1	5	20	18	+2	22	W L W W L
7 Nottingham Forest	13	5	6	2	20	14	+6	21	W D W W D
8 Wolverhampton ...	13	6	3	4	18	14	+4	21	D D L W L
9 Huddersfield Town	13	6	2	5	18	19	-1	20	L L W W L
10 Brighton & Hov...	13	5	4	4	16	9	+7	19	D L L D D
11 Leeds United	13	5	4	4	20	19	+1	19	L D D W D
12 Blackpool	13	5	3	5	22	18	+4	18	D D L L W
13 Derby County	13	4	5	4	18	18	+0	17	L W D D D
14 Burnley	13	5	2	6	26	29	-3	17	L W W L D
15 Millwall	13	4	4	5	23	24	-1	16	W D D W D
16 Watford	13	5	1	7	17	21	-4	16	L L W L W
17 Birmingham City	13	4	4	5	15	21	-6	16	W D D L L
18 Bolton Wanderers	13	4	3	6	19	22	-3	15	L D W L D
19 Barnsley	13	4	3	6	15	20	-5	15	L D W L L
20 Charlton Athletic	13	3	5	5	14	15	-1	14	D D L W L
21 Peterborough U...	13	4	0	9	16	20	-4	12	W W L L W
22 Sheffield Wedn...	13	3	3	7	18	23	-5	12	W D L D D
23 Bristol City	13	3	2	8	24	28	-4	11	L L L L D
24 Ipswich Town	13	1	4	8	10	26	-16	7	L L L L D

Greece

Super League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	8	7	1	0	20	5	+15	22	D W W W W
2 Panionios	8	6	0	2	9	7	+2	18	W L W W L
3 PAOK	8	5	2	1	12	4	+8	17	D W D W W
4 Asteras Tripolis	8	4	2	2	10	4	+6	14	D W L D W
5 Plataniyas	8	3	2	3	9	7	+2	11	L L W W L
6 Atromitos	8	2	5	1	6	4	+2	11	D D D L D
7 OFI	8	2	4	2	9	9	+0	10	D W D L W
8 Veria	8	2	3	3	5	8	-3	9	D L D W W
9 Panathinaikos	8	2	5	1	8	7	+1	9	D D W D D
10 PAS Giannina	8	2	3	3	7	6	+1	9	D W L W L
11 Kerkyra	8	2	3	3	5	9	-4	9	D W D W L
12 Aris	8	1	4	3	6	11	-5	7	D L L L W
13 Panthrakikos	8	2	0	6	6	13	-7	6	L L W L L
14 Xanthi	8	1	3	4	5	13	-8	6	D L L L L
15 Levadiakos	8	1	3	4	3	9	-6	6	D D L L W
16 AEK Athens	8	1	2	5	4	8	-4	5	W L D L L

TURKEY

Süper Lig



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Galatasaray	9	5	3	1	22	12	+10	18	W D D L W
2 Antalyaspor	9	6	0	3	17	11	+6	18	W W W W L
3 Gençlerbirliği	9	3	5	1	16	10	+6	14	D D W W D
4 Eskişehirspor	9	4	2	3	17	13	+4	14	D W D W L
5 Orduspor	9	3	5	1	12	10	+2	14	L D D W D
6 Kasımpaşa	9	4	1	4	14	10	+4	13	L D L W L
7 Bursaspor	9	3	4	2	13	10	+3	13	W D D D D
8 Fenerbahçe	9	3	4	2	11	8	+3	13	L D W L D
9 Trabzonspor	9	3	4	2	7	5	+2	13	L D W D D
10 Beşiktaş	9	3	3	3	16	13	+3	12	W D L L L
11 Sivasspor	9	3	3	3	11	12	-1	12	L L D W W
12 İstanbul BB	9	3	2	4	8	8	+0	11	L W L L D
13 Gaziantepspor	9	3	2	4	8	11	-3	11	W D L D W
14 Akhisar Beledi...	9	2	4	3	5	12	-7	10	W D D L L
15 Karabükspor	9	2	3	4	10	17	-7	9	D L D W W
16 Mersin İdmanyurdu	9	1	5	3	12	14	-2	8	W D L D D
17 Kayserispor	9	2	1	6	8	19	-11	7	L L W L W
18 Elazığspor	9	0	5	4	5	17	-12	5	D D D L D


HOLLAND

Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Twente	10	8	1	1	21	6	+15	25	WDWLW
2 PSV	10	8	0	2	33	9	+24	24	WWWWW
3 Vitesse	10	6	3	1	19	9	+10	21	LWDWD
4 Ajax	10	4	6	0	25	12	+13	18	DDWD
5 Feyenoord	10	5	3	2	18	13	+5	18	DWDWL
6 Utrecht	10	5	3	2	12	8	+4	18	WDDLW
7 Heracles	10	3	5	2	22	18	+4	14	WDWDD
8 ADO Den Haag	10	3	5	2	19	15	+4	14	WLDDD
9 NEC	10	3	4	3	14	17	-3	13	DWDDL
10 AZ	10	3	3	4	16	19	-3	12	WLDDL
11 Groningen	10	3	2	5	11	20	-9	11	LLDWW
12 Heerenveen	10	2	4	4	15	18	-3	10	LWDWL
13 RKC Waalwijk	10	2	4	4	12	15	-3	10	LLDDD
14 Roda JC	10	2	3	5	10	16	-6	9	DDWLL
15 PEC Zwolle	10	2	2	6	7	17	-10	8	LWLWL
16 NAC Breda	10	2	2	6	9	21	-12	8	WLLWL
17 Willem II	10	1	3	6	7	19	-12	6	LLWLD
18 VVV	10	0	3	7	10	28	-18	3	LLLLD

LEAGUE ONE



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Tranmere Rovers	15	9	4	2	32	14	+18	31	D L L W W
2 Sheffield United	15	8	7	0	19	10	+9	31	W W W D W
3 Crawley Town	15	9	2	4	23	19	+4	29	D W W W L
4 Stevenage	15	8	5	2	20	16	+4	29	L W W L W
5 Doncaster Rovers	14	8	3	3	20	12	+8	27	W W W D W
6 Notts County	15	7	4	4	26	17	+9	25	L D W W L
7 Swindon Town	15	7	4	4	23	14	+9	25	W L D D W
8 Milton Keynes Dons	15	6	5	4	18	11	+7	23	W L D D D
9 Preston North End	15	6	4	5	25	19	+6	22	D W L D L
10 Yeovil Town	15	7	1	7	25	21	+4	22	W W W L W
11 Brentford	15	5	7	3	21	17	+4	22	D W L D W
12 Colchester United	15	5	5	5	17	18	-1	20	D W W W L
13 Walsail	15	5	4	6	18	21	-3	19	D L D L L
14 Carlisle United	15	5	4	6	19	27	-8	19	L W L D L
15 Portsmouth	15	5	3	7	22	23	-1	18	L L W W D
16 AFC Bournemouth	15	4	6	5	24	27	-3	18	D W W W L
17 Oldham Athletic	14	4	5	5	15	15	+0	17	D L W D W
18 Crewe Alexandra	15	4	5	6	14	21	-7	17	L W D L W
19 Leyton Orient	15	5	1	9	11	18	-7	16	L L L W L
20 Shrewsbury Town	15	3	5	7	16	20	-4	14	D L L W L
21 Coventry City	15	3	5	7	15	22	-7	14	W L D W W
22 Scunthorpe United	15	2	4	9	11	27	-16	10	L L D D L
23 Bury	15	1	6	8	15	27	-12	9	D W L D L
24 Hartlepool United	15	1	5	9	13	26	-13	8	D L L L D



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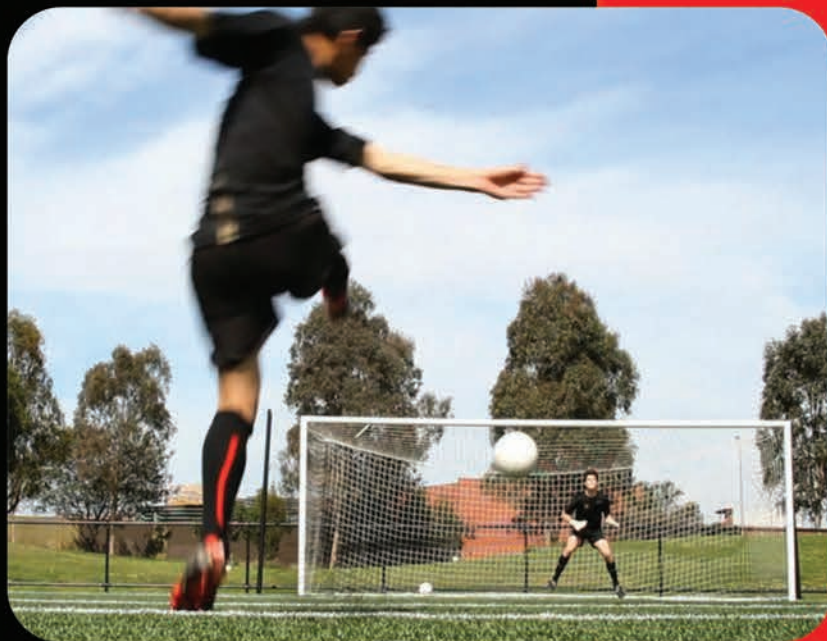
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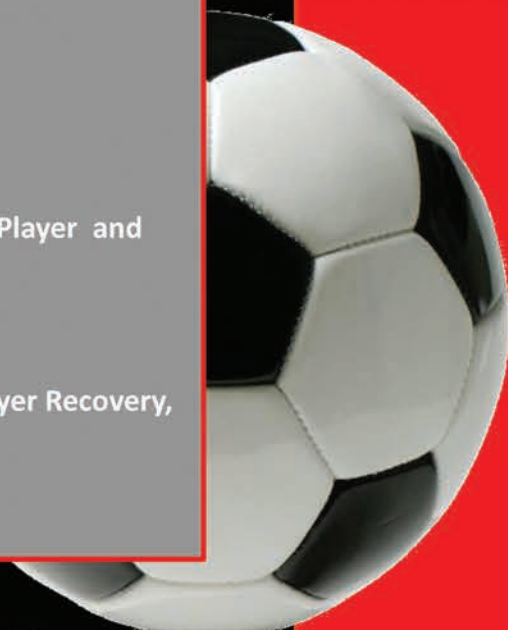
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